

Hafa Adai!

Federally-funded employees on 64 hours while on shutdown. **PAGE 4**

FAA to award \$22.75 million to CNMI airports. **PAGE 6**

75¢

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CHCC: 9 recovered, released

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The first few individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI have already recovered and been released from the Kanoa Resort quarantine site in Susupe. They are now back in their homes while being closely monitored under the Commonwealth

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, April 15, 2020

GUAM	CNMI
Positive: 135	Positive: 13
Recovered: 73	Recovered: 9
Deaths: 6*	Deaths: 2

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt

Source: Joint Information Center-Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp

Healthcare Corp.'s Text Illness Monitoring system.

As of April 14, 2020, the CNMI has submitted 59 specimens for COVID-19 testing. Of these 59 specimens, 55 have been processed, re-

See CHCC on Page 4



SIGN OF LIFE

Some people have resumed fitness activities such as walking along the Beach Road Pathway as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on and people slowly get back to their routines while observing strict social distancing rules.

KRIZEL TUAZON

Hyatt implements layoffs

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Hyatt Regency Saipan will be laying off some employees temporarily effective at the end of April, but some positions are suspended as early as today, April 16, with the assurance that those being let go will have first dibs when Hyatt

resumes hiring people sometime in September.

This was announced in a letter signed by Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa and given to affected employees yesterday. In the letter, Nishikawa said the measure is intended to ensure the financial stability of the company. "The cur-

See HYATT on Page 4

Guidelines out on Phil. govt aid to Fil. workers affected by pandemic

Filipino workers in the CNMI who are adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic may now avail of financial assistance from the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, according to the Philippine Honorary Consulate Mission-CNMI yesterday.



Arago

In quoting the newly released Philippine Labor Department's order, Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI Glicerio "Eli" Arago said that qualified Filipino workers, usually referred to as OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) can avail of the \$200 financial

See GUIDELINES on Page 4

Govt employees eligible for 2 unemployment aid

CNMI government employees affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are officially eligible for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the

Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres extended last night the Declaration of
See GOVT on Page 4

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E-Land Group donates 130 "thank you" packages for NMI's medical staff and first responders.

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NATION

In a nod to governors, President Donald Trump walks back his total authority claim.

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WORLD

IMF says the world economy in 2020 will suffer its worst year since the Great Depression.

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Local

Travel shutdown delays status conference in sex harassment case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Two off-island lawyers could

not make it to a status conference in federal court in a sexual harassment lawsuit filed by a woman against Imperial

Pacific International (CNMI) LLC and her then-supervisor at IPI.

The woman and defen-

dants IPI and Stephen Brown, through their respective counsels, have asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI that the

status conference, currently set for today, April 16, be rescheduled to May 28, 2020.

William Fitzgerald, who is counsel for the woman, and IPI counsel Kelley M. Butcher, informed the court that they are both currently off-island and, due to travel shutdowns and other concerns, will not be able to return to Saipan by April 16.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request on Monday and acknowledged that, although the status conference could be handled via telephone or video conference, the two lawyers have also been busy with personal and work life adjustments required by the COVID-19 situation.

The woman, who is a Chinese national, accused Stephen Brown of sexual harassment and IPI of ignoring her complaint against him. The

complainant is demanding unspecified damages from Brown and IPI. The woman is a pit supervisor and has worked for IPI since Sept. 10, 2015. Her direct supervisor was Brown, a U.S. citizen, who was the pit manager.

In IPI's answer to the lawsuit, IPI asserted that it investigated the complaint and took appropriate action. Butcher did not specify IPI's action.

Butcher said that IPI had a policy in place against sexual harassment and the plaintiff has not suffered any adverse employment action.

IPI admits that the plaintiff started employment on Sept. 10, 2015, but denies the inference that she has had continuous employment with IPI since that date. The lawyer said IPI denies that Brown was promoted.

'ARC involved in COVID-19 efforts'

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter assured yesterday that it has been actively involved with the COVID-19 response over the past several weeks by providing support to front-line workers and working closely with CNMI government partners and other non-profit organizations.

"We've given out more than 3,500 hand sanitizers to [Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services], [Department of Community and Cultural Affairs], Karidat [Social Services], Center for Living Independently, [Nutrition Assistance Program], Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the Ports Police, and others," said J.D. Tenorio, Red Cross Disaster Program manager.

In addition, the Red Cross has provided hundreds of hygiene supplies, including toothpaste, soap, toothbrushes, and shampoo, to those quarantined at Kanoa Resort and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

"COVID-19 is impacting our entire community as well as the way in which Red Cross delivers programs here and around the nation. Despite these challenges we continue to

collect lifesaving blood in the mainland for our mothers giving birth, cancer patients, and many others with critical needs at CHCC," said John Hirsh, executive director of the CNMI chapter of the Red Cross.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has asked the Red Cross to help identify prospective plasma donors who are fully recovered from COVID-19. Recovered patients have antibodies in their plasma that can attack the virus, and this FDA-funded effort is evaluating this convalescent plasma as a treatment for patients who are seriously ill with COVID-19.

Whether its relief and comfort after disasters, critical blood and blood products for the Commonwealth Health Center, emergency assistance to military members and their families, or support for worldwide response efforts of the global Red Cross network, the American Red Cross and its NMI Chapter remain committed to delivering ongoing support for those we serve, every day. For more information about the Red Cross call 234-3459 or www.redcross.org/nmi. (PR)

Water interruption in Gualo Rai

There will be a scheduled water service interruption for portions of Gualo Rai, mainly for customers located along Gualo Rai Road on the west side of the Gualo Rai traffic light, this Friday, April 17, 2020, from 8am to 5pm. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water interruption is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to connect the

new 8-inch distribution main to the existing 16-inch main as part of CUC's Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement Project. As a result of the waterline replacement, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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Woman arrested for alleged illegal drug possession

On Sunday, April 12, 2020, at about 6:27pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety was responding to a case in the parking lot of San Jose Market. While tending to another individual, officers were also speaking to a second female individual. The second individual continuously asked officers if she could leave the area.

Officers immediately noticed a strong odor of alcohol coming from the female operator. The operator was asked

to step out of the vehicle. Officers asked the operator some questions, and the operator stated that she had a drink earlier and did not have her driver's license as it was at home. Officers asked if she was willing to complete a Standard Field Sobriety Test before they call a relative to pick her up. The operator agreed and



Matagolai

handed items to the officer to hold while she completed the SFST. The receiving officer immediately noticed a few suspicious items, including a clear zip baggie containing a crystal-like substance, as well as a pack of Zig-Zag rolling papers.

The suspect was found with several zip baggies on her person, along with a straw, and

cash. The zip baggies and their contents were all tested on-site and results indicated that the substance was presumptive positive for methamphetamine.

At about 6:54pm, Ilayza S. Matagolai was arrested for illegal possession of a controlled substance. She was booked and detained at the Department of Corrections.

Criminal mischief

On Tuesday, April 14, 2020,

at about 12:16am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call reporting a criminal mischief incident at the former Marianas Country Club in San Roque, Saipan.

A unit was dispatched to the

scene and met with the caller, who directed police to a vandalized living quarter. At the scene police also noticed fire extinguishers, glass, and a damaged television set were scattered throughout the driveway. **(PR)**

'Rota awfully quiet most of the day'

With a population of less than 3,000, Rota has always been a quiet place but, for those wondering how much more silent it can get during the COVID-19 pandemic, Barrie C. Toves, a resident of Sinapalo II Village, described the situation in his neighborhood as "awfully quiet most of the day."

Toves finds it hard to say what people do to keep busy at home because he observes social distancing religiously. "I leave the house only if it is absolutely necessary to replenish supplies etc.," Toves told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

So far, he is not aware of any positive COVID-19 case on the island. He said they rely on public notices from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force for updates on the number of cases.

With the curfew set between 7pm and 6am, Toves said there are some people moving around between 6am to 7pm.

He said prices of commodities seem stable and have not increased.

To keep busy, Toves does

house chores daily and catches up with his hobbies, which is sand painting as well as writing songs for future recording projects.

Toves went back to Rota from Saipan before Gov. Ralph DLG Torres issued the executive order for non-essential government offices shutdown.

"I never left Rota prior to flight cancellations," said Toves, who chairs the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Airport Facilities Committee.

Last March 16, following Guam's confirmation of three coronavirus cases, Torres declared a State of Significant Emergency and a State of Public Health Emergency in the CNMI.

Toves said although passenger flights are temporarily cancelled, Rota still receives cargo flights through the Benjamin T. Manglona International Airport.

The 2010 Census said that Rota has a population of 2,527 but Toves said the number might be lower now. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

Kilili leads new effort to lift Medicaid cap

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives yesterday, repealing the cap on federal Medicaid funding for the U.S. insular areas. Unlike many states, which have unlimited federal funding, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands each has an upper limit on annual funding set by law. The result is health care rationing for the over 4 million Americans living in these insular areas and a system that forces local officials to make life and death decisions based on money.

"The coronavirus pandemic is exposing the gaps in our national healthcare system like

never before," Sablan said in his introductory remarks. "One of those gaps is that our national Medicaid program does not reach all Americans with full coverage."

Getting the same treatment as states under the Medicaid program has long been a goal of territorial congressional representatives. And the coronavirus crisis has already led to breakthroughs. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, passed in March, created equity between the states and the territories with respect to the federal-local match for Medicaid. Families First, also, provided additional federal dollars for the territorial Medicaid pro-



Sablan

grams, but did not lift the cap.

"No matter how many fall ill, no matter how costly or prolonged their treatment, that cap will always limit care in the territories," Sablan said.

"Now, as never before, we have to understand that, while some areas of our nation are ill, no area of our nation can be well."

Sablan was joined in introducing the bill by committee chairs Raúl Grijalva (D-Arizona) and Nydia Velázquez (D-New York). Delegates Michael San Nicolas (D-Guam), Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), and Stacey Plaskett

(D-U.S. Virgin Islands) are also original co-sponsors, as are Reps. Chuy García (D-Illinois), Adriano Espaillat (D-New York), and José Serrano (D-New York). The bill is H.R. 6495.

As early as 2000, insular representatives have introduced legislation to get equal treatment with states under the Medicaid program. When Sablan was first elected in 2009 the federal-local match was 50-50 and the Marianas' annual funding was capped at \$4.98 million. Twelve years later the federal-local match is 89-11, as good as any state. And Congress has appropriated \$63.1 million, as the federal share for fiscal year 2020, a 13-fold increase in total funding. One-third of the people in the Marianas rely on Medicaid for their health care. **(PR)**

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Fire in Chalan Piao remains under investigation

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

A trash fire in Chalan Piao yesterday afternoon remains under investigation, according to the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

The trash fire, which took place behind the Chalan Piao Supermarket yesterday afternoon, was contained as of 2:46pm, but remains under investigation. DFEMS said the cause of the fire remains undetermined as of press time.

According to a report from DFEMS, at around 1:10pm yesterday,

dispatch received a call of a grass fire in Chalan Piao. Responders from the Susupe Fire Station and from the Garapan Fire Station were sent to the site, arriving on scene at 1:21pm.

First responding units confirmed that the fire was a roadside trash fire with vegetation. Fire crews put it out

to prevent it from traveling or damaging the nearby homes.

DFEMS reported that the fire was controlled at 2:46pm and no one was hurt at the scene.

According to a woman who lives in the area who asked not to be named, the sirens caught her attention first even though she already smelled the smoke from her apartment.

"This is normal for the south because someone is always burning trash so I ignored it. A few minutes later, I heard the sirens and, being curious, I looked

outside and...I saw thick black clouds and it looked like it was behind Chalan Piao Supermarket," she said.

According to her, she was in the middle of her online class when she noticed the fire so she was unable to offer any assistance.

"I was in the middle of Zoom University and all of a sudden I smelled smoke. I wanted to check it, but unfortunately, I was still in class and it wouldn't have been over until the next hour or so. I hope that everyone is okay there," she said.

Federally-funded employees on 64 hours while on shutdown

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

"As long as we're in shutdown, everybody is on 64 hours."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres made it clear in an interview yesterday that all government employees, including those federally-funded, will be credited 64 hours, as long as the shutdown is in place.

On March 15, the governor ordered the closure of all government offices and all non-essential gov-

ernment functions, as a precautionary measure against the COVID-19 threat in the CNMI, immediately following the report of positive coronavirus cases in Guam.

Torres extended the government shutdown on March 27, which was again extended last night for another 30 days.

Once the disaster declaration is lifted, federally-funded employees will resume their 80-hour work schedule, he said. "For the most part, when I lift the austerity measure or the disaster

declaration, those federally-funded will be back to 80 hours."

Prior to the shutdown, discussions on exempting federally-funded employees from austerity were in place, with the administration looking into the possibility of getting federal programs to absorb some locally-funded employees.

Some federal programs also offered to advance payments of salaries and expenditures, in an effort to help alleviate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis in the CNMI.

HYATT

From Page 1

rent pandemic situation has impacted our business significantly and, as a result, we find that we must make some personnel decisions," he said.

The company expects the current situation to last until Sept. 30, 2020. "However, we will reassess the circumstances regularly and may lessen or extend this time frame. We will recall laid off employees as business needs or warrant based on first, job function and then by seniority," he added.

Nishikawa told *Saipan Tribune* that they have placed majority of their employees on unpaid leave status as a result of COVID-19. "Just like everyone else on island and the rest of the world, we have planned our staffing according to the business level. Our staff are aware that when business level picks up, we will be calling them back, hopefully sooner than later," he said.

"We have assigned people to handle multiple departments so I can say

that we still provide all the necessary services that we feel are essential to our in-house guests. ...At the moment, we are grateful and we exist because of our Federal Emergency Management Agency contractors. We hope to continue to provide them accommodation and minimal service as we also try to keep our employees safe," he added.

With the ongoing lease agreement negotiation with the CNMI Department of Public Lands, Nishikawa hopes that the current circumstances will not affect their discussions. "We hope that the CNMI will recognize that, as long as we are here, we will do the best we can to take care of our employees and guests. I don't think that the Hyatt leaving at this current state of the economy is good for the CNMI," he said.

In an earlier interview, Nishikawa said that putting people on reduced hours or out of work is the last thing that Hyatt wants to do. "We are not yet there. We still have so many things to do. ...For the moment, the hotel is resorting to maximizing the revenue that is coming in. For exam-

ple, if one restaurant is having good business, then we try to expand that and make money from there."

Two months later, with zero tourists coming in, the inevitable happened for Hyatt.

Nishikawa in the letter also said that Hyatt will be regularly communicating with laid-off employees and encourages them to seek unemployment assistance. "You may be eligible for the Pandemic Unemployment Program under these circumstances. ...Contact the CNMI Department of Labor for information," he said.

In the event a laid-off employee finds an alternate job during this period and does not intend to return to Hyatt, just give their Human Resources Department notice.

As for Club of the Hyatt members, Nishikawa said that Hyatt will extend the number of months and days that they are unable to provide service.

"My message to my team yesterday was that we will take care of things while they are out but I will wait for them to come home soon," Nishikawa added.

CHCC

From Page 1

sulting in 13 positive specimens, 42 negative specimens. CHCC awaits the results of four specimens.

In a recent interview with CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña, she confirmed that, of the 13 that have tested positive for the coronavirus, two have passed away, nine have recovered, while 11 remain in isolation. Of the 11 in isolation, two have been confirmed positive while the nine are awaiting their results.

Muña said that five tests are being sent to Guam every day. If there are more than five specimens for testing and if those numbers beyond five aren't considered high priority, those specimens are sent to the Diagnostic Laboratory Service in Hawaii. Muna said that Hawaii processes it and CHCC receives the results "pretty fast" since CHCC is

connected to their network.

Test kits from Korea

According to Muna, once all 60,000 test kits arrive, CHCC will have no problem testing everyone on island. Since there are only 20,000 test kits that are currently on island, CHCC wants to make sure that testing should be done only on those who are in critical need.

Testing 60,000 people in one day isn't ideal, Muña said, and will take time, but since contact tracing is done once an individual shows any COVID-19 symptoms, this will help the hospital determine who needs to get tested immediately and who doesn't.

"Health care workers with symptoms and [people who are in] hospital and have symptoms, we want to make sure that those people get access to this [test kits] immediately," said Muña.

In an interview with KUAM News, Muña said that the test kits

won't only be for Saipan residents, but also for those on Tinian and Rota.

Muña added that the test aren't U.S Food and Drug Administration-approved, so it's not meant to be used in clinical care. That isn't bad news though, as the test are Korea FDA-approved so it will serve the purpose of surveillance, and primarily for public health activities, including containment of the virus.

"It's more power to CHCC to be able to determine that there's a particular case and further protecting from further widespread of the virus in our community," said Muña.

Should there be a false negative, Muña stated that anything coming back will require quality check. "That's the reason why the pathologist is here, to do the quality checks," said Muna.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

GUIDELINES

From Page 1

assistance if they meet the eligibility requirements based on the newly promulgated guidelines.

Arago received the information from the Philippine Consulate General Office of Agana, Guam yesterday about this aid program that potentially covers thousands of OFWs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to Arago, OFWs must apply online for the financial assistance and are required to complete the online application form and submit the supporting documents directly to the website and or social media account of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington, D.C.

All OFWs in the CNMI must access the following online/website account: www.facebook.com/POLO-Washington-DC-1730811803835481 and/or directly contact the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington, D.C. through the email address wdc.doleakap@gmail.com or by calling +1 (202) 467-9425.

The Philippine Honorary Consulate Mission-CNMI emphasized that all online applications are subject to evaluation and approval. Release of payment will be made through money transfer or cash remittance.

Based on the Philippine Labor Department's prescribing provision for the financial assistance, OFWs who are covered or qualified for financial assistance includes both documented and undocumented alien workers.

The Philippine Labor Department identifies the following coverage for

OFWs to avail of the \$200 financial assistance:

■ **Regular/Documented OFW**, as defined in the 2016 Revised POEA Rules and Regulations refers to those:

□ who possesses a valid passport and appropriate visa or permit to stay and work in the receiving country; and

□ whose contract of employment has been processed by the POEA or the POLO

■ **Qualified Undocumented OFW**

□ who were originally regular or documented workers but for some reason or cause have thereafter lost their regular or documented status;

□ who are not registered with the POEA or whose contract were not processed by POEA or the POLO, but have undertaken actions to regularize their contracts or status; or

□ who are not registered with the POEA or whose contracted were not processed by POEA or the POLO, but are active OWWA members at the time of availment.

■ **Balik-Manggagawa** who are unable to return to their host country in view of the host country's lockdown due to COVID19.

In quoting the DOLE Department Order 212 Series of 2020, Arago said those eligible are: 1) Those who have experienced job displacement due to the receiving country's imposition of lockdown or community quarantine or having been infected by the diseases; 2) must be still at overseas jobsites or in the Philippines as *balik-manggagawa*, or already repatriated to the Philippines, and 3) must not receive any financial support/ assistance from the receiving countries/ employers. (*Philippine Honorary Consulate-CNMI*)

GOVT

From Page 1

State of Public Health Emergency and Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency for an additional 30 days.

■■■

In announcing the eligibility of government employees for these two programs yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said this is welcome news "that we have been anticipating for the last several weeks as our central government and autonomous agencies deal with this unprecedented economic downturn.

He said his administration has been in close contact with the U.S. Department of Labor and it just officially informed the CNMI Department of Labor "that these important relief packages will be available for our government employees."

"This global pandemic has affected economies and government bud-

gets around the world, and with the loss of our tourism industry, there is no revenue to keep our government at full capacity. We never want to be in this position where we have to cut our personnel costs, but now we can ensure that all of our employees who have been terminated, furloughed, or have had their hours reduced will have the resources to take care of themselves and their families during this crisis," he added. He assured that his administration will implement this program for government and private sector employees "very soon."

USDOL on Wednesday officially notified the CNMI Department of Labor of the eligibility of CNMI government employees for PUA and FPUC, ensuring the protection of an estimated 6,000 government employees from executive departments and autonomous agencies.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

E-Land shows some loving to CNMI's front-liners

By **IVA MAURIN**

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REPORTER

Much-deserved appreciation is going to the CNMI's front-liners, with E-Land Group and its local holding company, Micronesia Resort Inc., donating 130 "thank you" packages for medical staff and first responders who are working to make sure the coronavirus is contained, and stopped, on the islands.

Each package contains a massager, health supplements, snacks, and a card. Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Brian Shin said that the donation is an expression of

gratitude to health workers.

"This is the time that we need to pull together," Shin said. "There are people that we need to remember. They're putting their lives in front of, for the community. These are the first responders and medical staff."

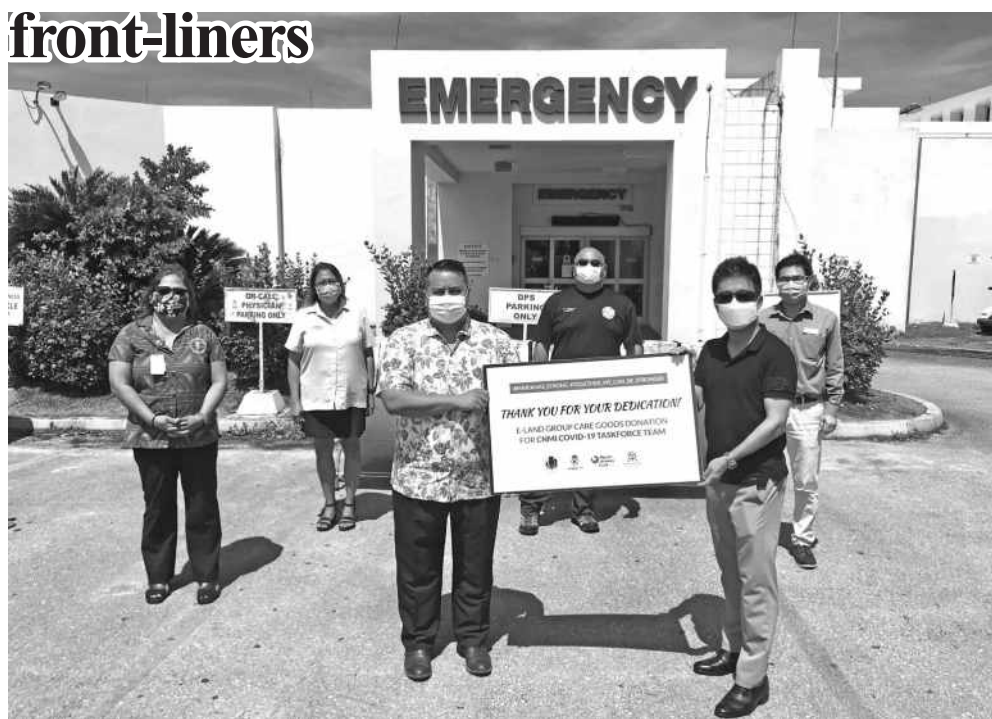
Shin hopes that the packages could help cheer the front-liners. "Hopefully they can have a smile on their face, at least for a few minutes, and then hopefully, I'm sure they do know, but people on our islands and their families recognize that what they're doing for the community is a good thing, and then they

should feel proud of what they're doing."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who received the donation with COVID-19 Task Force head Warren Villagomez and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña, thanked the company for their donation.

"This appreciation is for nurses and doctors, and I say thank you and definitely every contribution, every donation, every good deed is greatly appreciated," Torres said.

Last week, the company also donated 445 aid packages and grocery items to the CNMI government, for distribution to families in need. Pacific Islands Club Saipan, one of E-Land's hotels, is also being used as a quarantine facility.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, on behalf of COVID-19 front-liners, receives 130 care packages from Micronesia Resort Inc. chief executive officer Brian Shin, yesterday, at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN

Payroll protection for small businesses

Small businesses may be able to avoid laying off their employees through the Paycheck Protection Program of the Small Business Administration.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said in his e-newsletter that the program would help small businesses avoid layoffs.

"Unemployment benefits provided in the CARES Act have not yet begun in the Marianas, but another alternative for small businesses to avoid layoffs altogether is the Act's Payroll Protection Program," he said.

Sablan said that eligible employers who keep their employees on payroll during the COVID-19 emergency can receive a federally guaranteed loan to cover 100% of the cost,

and those who maintain their payroll for up to eight weeks can get the loan converted to an outright grant.

According to SBA's website, loans will be forgiven provided that the business keeps all employees on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. Loan payments will also be deferred for six months, and no collateral or personal guarantees are required.

"Keeping employees on payroll this way will make it easier to get businesses up and running again once the health crisis abates," Sablan said. "... Businesses employing CW workers will not jeopardize their immigration status, if the workers are continuing to be paid." (Iva Maurin)

Manglona grants Atalig request to allow disclosure of some docs to ex-FBI agent

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has granted the request of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to modify the court's protective order to allow disclosure of some documents to his investigator, who is a former Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent.

In an order on Tuesday, Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said the lawyers for Atalig and his co-defendant, Evelyn Atalig, may disclose grand jury and Henthorn materials to their defense investigator, former FBI special agent Jeremy Wolfe.

Henthorn gives defense attorneys the right to any information in an agent's personnel record relating to dishonesty, perjury, and others that can be used to impeach the agent's testimony.

Last Feb. 25, the court issued an order imposing protection on grand jury transcripts

and Henthorn materials.

Banes said they need the materials so that their team can adequately prepare for the defense in this case.

Banes said that assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley, who is counsel for the U.S. government, has indicated that he does not oppose the requested disclosure.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged jointly with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

Manglona recently ordered the postponement of the jury trial due to the coronavirus pandemic.

DOJ awards \$2.93M grants to Guam

HAGATÑA, Guam—Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, announced yesterday that Guam received \$2,932,867 in Department of Justice grants to respond to the public safety challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The grant, awarded to the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans, is available under the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding program, authorized by the recent stimulus legislation. Additional funds have been allocated for local jurisdictions in Guam. Those jurisdictions can find out if they are eligible and apply immediately by visiting the bja.ojp.gov website. The Justice Department is moving quickly, awarding grants on a rolling basis and aiming to have funds available for drawdown as soon as possible after receiving applications. Funding is also available for the CNMI and the Commonwealth has been allocated a total of \$1,509,123.

"This important funding is an additional step in the ongoing efforts by the Department of Justice to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak," Anderson said. "This particular allocation will support a broad

range of activities by the government of Guam. Other DOJ efforts include my appointing a Coronavirus Fraud Coordinator, who has joined our law enforcement partners in prioritizing criminal investigations related to coronavirus. At the national level, Attorney General William P. Barr created the COVID-19 Hoarding and Price Gouging Task Force to coordinate efforts with the Antitrust Division and U.S. Attorneys across the country where illegal activity is taking place."

"The outbreak of COVID-19 and the public health emergency it created are sobering reminders that even the most routine duties performed by our nation's public safety officials carry potentially

grave risks," said Katharine T. Sullivan, principal deputy assistant attorney general for the Office of Justice Programs. "These funds will provide hard-hit communities with critical resources to help mitigate the impact of this crisis and give added protection to the brave professionals charged with keeping citizens safe."

The law gives jurisdictions considerable latitude in the use of these funds for dealing with COVID-19. Potential uses include hiring personnel, paying overtime, purchasing protective equipment, distributing resources to hard-hit areas and addressing inmates' medical needs.

Agencies that were eli-

gible for the fiscal year 2019 State and Local Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program are candidates for the emergency funding. Local units of government and tribes will receive direct awards separately according to their jurisdictions' allocations.

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by principal deputy assistant attorney general Katharine T. Sullivan, provides federal leadership, grants, training, technical assistance and other resources to improve the nation's capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal and juvenile justice systems. More information about OJP and its components can be found at www.ojp.gov. (PR)

Noel Rios
Phone: 783-2532

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the)
Matter of:)
Cecilia Alvarez) FCD GU
An Incompetent) CIVIL ACTION
Person) NO. 20-0088
By:)
Noel Rios) NOTICE
Petitioner) OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 20, 2020, at 9 am at the Supreme Court, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS JUDICIARY
House of Justice • Guma Hustisia • Iimwal Aweewe
Tel: (670) 236-9820 • Fax: (670) 236-9897
P.O. Box 502179, Saipan, MP 96950-2179
<https://cnmilaw.org> • cnmilaw@nmjudiciary.gov

PUBLIC NOTICE SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, April 20, 2020, 12:00 p.m.
Zoom Video Conference
Saipan, MP

Agenda

1. Preliminary matters
a. Call to order and roll call
b. Proof of notice of meeting
2. Special reports of the executive director and committees
a. Office and staff update
b. FY 2020 budget and expenditures
3. Special business; and
a. Public law 21-22 (1 CMC § 3809(c))
b. Commission Publication Fee and Revolving Fund
4. Public comment

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission will hold its special meeting by video conference in accordance with Section 3-5 of its bylaws. The meeting will be open to the public through Facebook Live from CNMI LRC's Facebook page, Commonwealth Law Revision Commission.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Friday, April 17, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call
c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹
- III. NEW BUSINESS
a. Furlough
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²
- V. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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FAA to award \$22.75 million to CNMI airports

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration will be awarding \$22,759,818 in airport aid to airports in the Northern Mariana Islands to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This grant funding, announced yesterday by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao, is part of the \$10-billion provided under the newly created Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Airport Grant Program, an effort to provide unprecedented and immediate relief to American families, workers, and



Chao

businesses.

"This \$10 billion in emergency resources will help fund the continued operations of our nation's airports during this crisis and save workers' jobs," said Chao.

This funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses including payroll and utilities, and airport debt payments. (PR)

...\$20.69 million to Guam airport...

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Aviation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation will award \$20,693,369 in airport aid to one airport in Guam to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Guam has one airport, the A. B. Won Pat International Airport, also known as Guam International Airport.

This grant funding is part of the \$10 billion provided under the newly created Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Airport Grant Program, to provide immediate relief to American families, workers, and businesses.

"This \$10 billion in emergency resources will help fund the continued operations of our nation's airports during this crisis and save workers' jobs," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao in announcing the grant awards yesterday.

This funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport business due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses including payroll and utilities, and airport debt payments.

"Thank you to the dedicated men and women from the FAA's Office of Airports for creating an entirely new program in record time to assist airport sponsors in desperate need of these funds," said FAA administrator Steve Dickson.

View a list of the Northern Mariana Islands airports receiving funding on an interactive map, along with funding for all U.S. airports on FAA's website.

The FAA encourages airport sponsors to spend the grant funds immediately to help minimize any adverse impact from the current public health emergency. Airport sponsors should work with their local FAA Office of Airports field office on the application and grant-agreement process.

The CARES Act also provides funds to increase the federal share to 100% for grants awarded under the fiscal year 2020 appropriations for Airport Improvement Program and Supplemental Discretionary grants. Under normal circumstances, AIP

grant recipients contribute a matching percentage of the project costs. Providing this additional funding and eliminating the local share will allow critical safety and capacity projects to continue as planned regardless of airport sponsors' current financial circumstances.

The FAA will use a streamlined application and grant-agreement process to make this funding immediately available for critical airport needs. The funds will be available as soon as the airport sponsor executes a grant agreement.

The CARES Act provides new funds distributed by various formulas for all airports that are part of the national airport system. This includes all commercial service airports, all reliever airports and some public-owned general aviation airports. (PR)



File photo shows the Francisco C. Ada Saipan International Airport.
KRIZEL TUAZON

...and \$1.38 million to American Samoa airports

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Federal Aviation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation will award \$1,381,262 in airport

aid to three airports in American Samoa to help respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

This grant funding is part of

the \$10 billion provided under the newly created Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act Airport Grant Program, to provide immediate

relief to American families, workers, and businesses.

"This \$10 billion in emergency resources will help fund the continued operations of our nation's airports during this crisis and save workers' jobs,"

said U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao yesterday.

This funding will support continuing operations and replace lost revenue resulting from the sharp decline in passenger traffic and other airport

business due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The funds are available for airport capital expenditures, airport operating expenses including payroll and utilities, and airport debt payments. (PR)

MCS hosts region's first TED-Ed Student Talks

Tonight, Mount Carmel School's TED-Ed Club will host the region's first-ever TED-Ed Student Talks. The talks will be streamed at 7pm online via the school's Facebook page and YouTube channel and will feature a number of students delivering TED-style talks on topics and ideas that they have been working on all school year.

The talks were originally scheduled to be presented to a live audience, but due to mitigation and containment efforts for COVID-19, the event was cancelled. However, over the past month, the school's TED-Ed Club members explored how they could proceed with the talks by bringing them online. Working from their homes,

students refined their talks, assembled their slides, and recorded themselves delivering their talks, all of which have been edited for online streaming.

Completing the talks was important to the club members. According to TED-Ed Club president and sophomore student Larry Cruz, "these talks allow us to share our thoughts and ideas to an audience unconfined to the walls of a classroom."

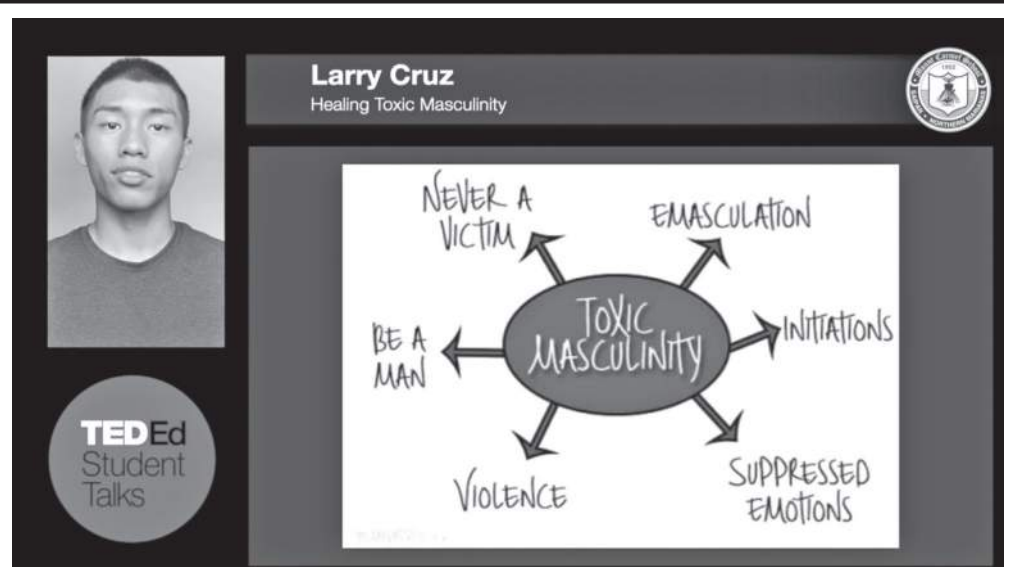
"We are more than grateful to be provided with this opportunity that most students are not given. For the past few weeks we developed our speeches and practiced our talks which is why it's important that we present these ideas because these are ideas worth

spreading," he added.

School president and TED-Ed Club adviser Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero is very proud of the students for all their hard work. "Despite all the challenges of the current COVID-19 situation, these students pushed through to put together some very thought-provoking talks," he said. "This is proof that learning and thinking and growing do not need to stop during this crisis. In fact, now, more than ever, we need to encourage our kids to engage in this kind of critical inquiry and expression."

The TED-Ed Student Talks will be streamed free of charge at 7pm tonight on either of the following platforms:

■ Facebook: www.facebook.com/mtcarmelcnmi



A screenshot of Mount Carmel School's TED-Ed Club president Larry Cruz and his talk, "Healing Toxic Masculinity," is one of the TED-Ed Student Talks featured in the region's first ever TED-style talks, hosted by Mount Carmel School.

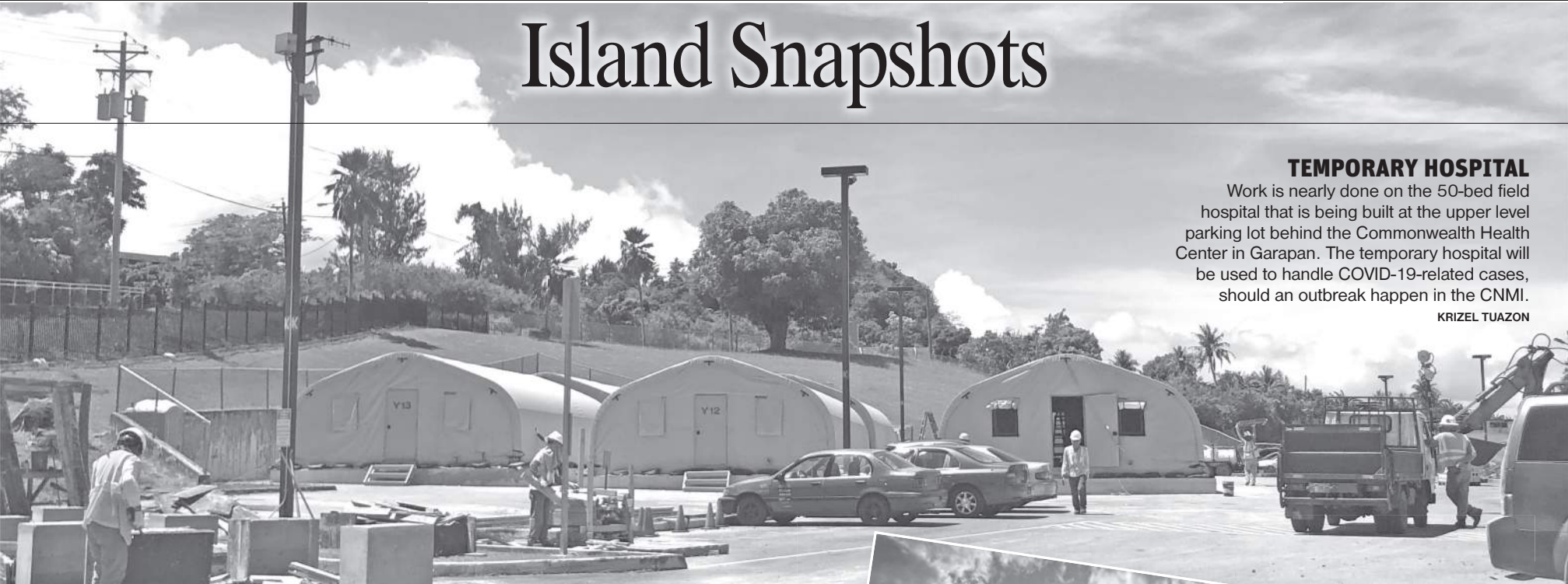
MCS

■ YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/MountCarmelSchool
After the stream, all talks will be uploaded to TED's

world-renowned site for sharing great ideas. Authorized and supported by TED-Ed, the MCS TED-Ed Club is open

to all grade levels and aims to support students and teachers who wish to discuss, debate, and explore ideas. (PR)

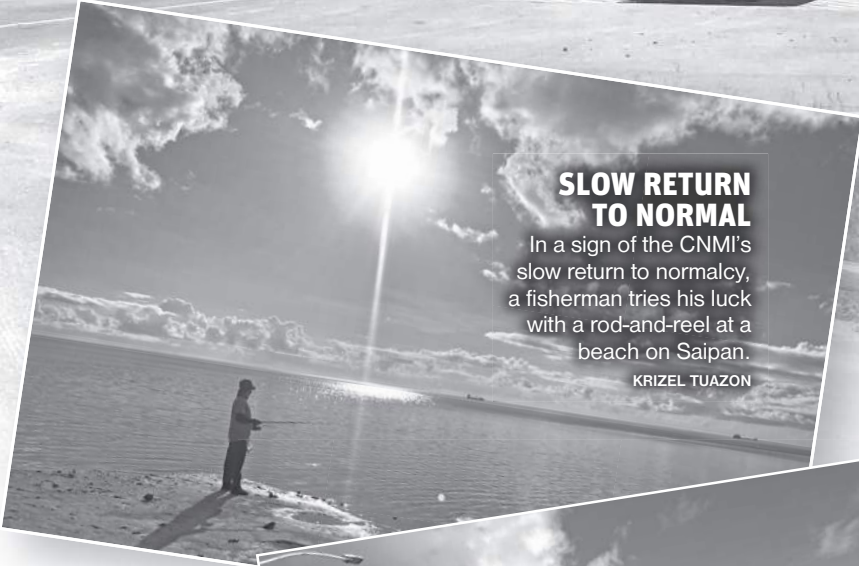
Island Snapshots



TEMPORARY HOSPITAL

Work is nearly done on the 50-bed field hospital that is being built at the upper level parking lot behind the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan. The temporary hospital will be used to handle COVID-19-related cases, should an outbreak happen in the CNMI.

KRIZEL TUAZON



SLOW RETURN TO NORMAL

In a sign of the CNMI's slow return to normalcy, a fisherman tries his luck with a rod-and-reel at a beach on Saipan.

KRIZEL TUAZON



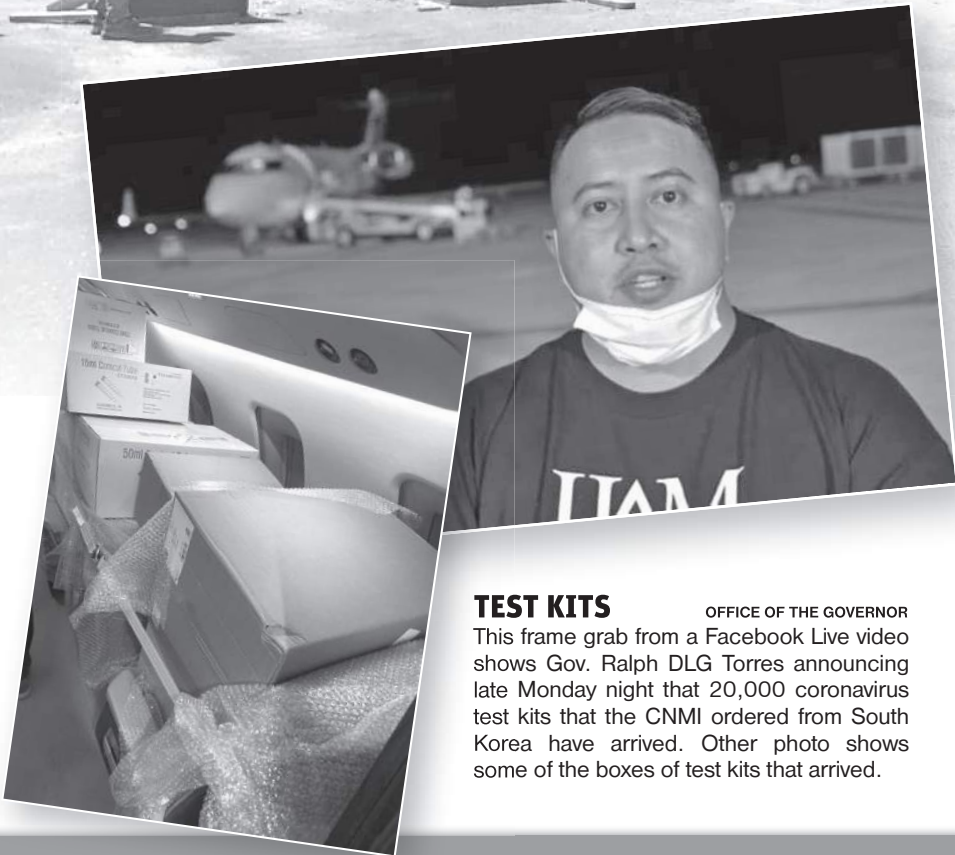
KRIZEL TUAZON

People play at the new and improved basketball court in San Antonio across the Afetnas Market in yet another encouraging sign of life getting back to normal.

TEST KITS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

This frame grab from a Facebook Live video shows Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announcing late Monday night that 20,000 coronavirus test kits that the CNMI ordered from South Korea have arrived. Other photo shows some of the boxes of test kits that arrived.



GIFT FOR FRONT-LINERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

McDonald's Saipan and McDonald's Guam recently donated food and coffee to first responders and front-liners in both Guam and Saipan. Photos show the food items McDonald's donated to front-liners in Guam. The company also made a similar donation to the CNMI's front-liners at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Shooting messengers like Dr. Anthony Fauci won't win the war on COVID-19

Reasonable people can disagree about how long stay-at-home orders should last and whether the off-label use of drugs like hydroxychloroquine to fight the COVID-19 pandemic will prove as efficacious as many, including President Donald Trump, hope.

But what we should all agree on is that we don't scapegoat our government's leading infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, for delivering an informed opinion, based on decades of experience and the best empirical data, that many, understandably, don't want to hear.

Yet that's exactly what some pundits and politicians are doing. In recent weeks, there's been a misguided and dangerously irresponsible effort to force a wedge between the president and Fauci, a trusted public health adviser under six presidents who's headed the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases since 1984. He's been called a "grandstander" and far worse by those who criticize him for calling for stay-at-home orders that are sinking the economy and amount to "national suicide."

Ironically, the man handpicked by the president to provide his valuable expertise and guidance in an unprecedented public health crisis has received death threats and become, at least in some circles, the embodiment of all that is wrong with our government's response to the pandemic. It's enough to make you believe the cynics are right when they smugly say "No good deed goes unpunished."

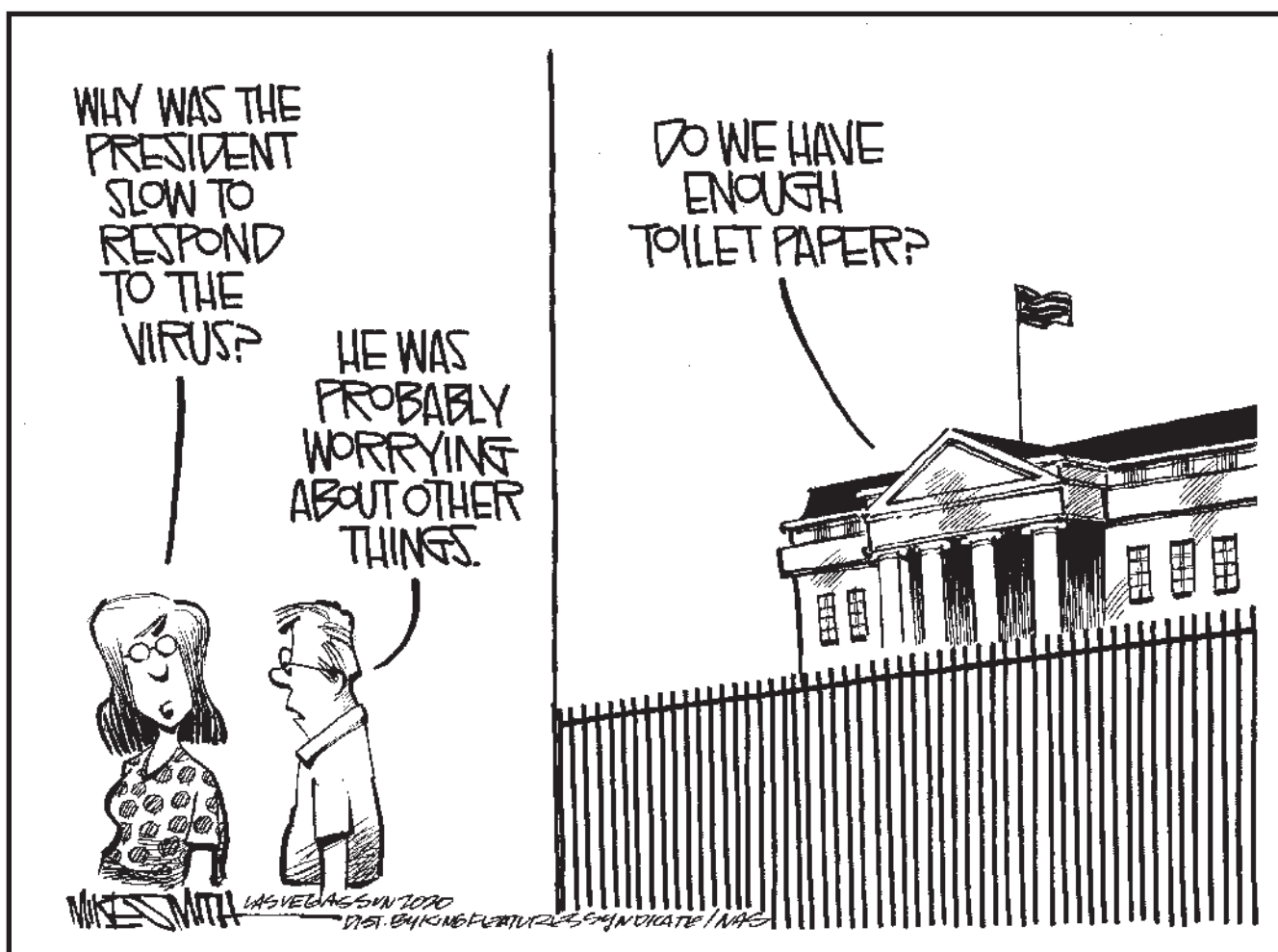
There's a reason Trump turned to Fauci—who he has repeatedly called a "good man"—early in this crisis, appointing him to his White House Coronavirus Task Force on Jan. 29. That reason can be summed in three words: expertise, reliability, trust. There is no more trusted infectious disease expert in the world than Fauci. And trust, based on sometimes unwelcome scientific facts, is our greatest ally in the fight against this pandemic.

That's not to say that we as Americans would ever blindly follow some COVID-19 czar or unquestionably allow government to indefinitely curtail our basic civil liberties. There's a balance that clearly must be struck. And politicians and public health experts must work together to strike that balance. Indeed, the consequences of not doing so will be counted in lives lost, as well as livelihoods lost if our economy remains crippled indefinitely.

The good news is that, as Dr. Deborah Birx, coordinator for the White House Coronavirus Task Force, made clear last week, new data shows the infection curve may be flattening in some parts of the country, which offers "great encouragement."

Fauci, during a White House press conference Thursday alongside Trump and Vice President Mike Pence, reiterated that progress, and why it's being made: "At the same time as we're seeing the increase in deaths, we're seeing a rather dramatic decrease in the need for hospitalizations. That means that what we are doing is working and therefore we need to continue to do it."

What we are doing is social distancing, staying at home, and in millions of cases where working from home is impos-

See **SHOOTING** on next page

Show compassion for sex workers, drug users during pandemic

My career has focused on advocating for the health of some of the most marginalized and ostracized people in our society.

I helped establish a center for women, the majority engaged in sex work, in southwest Baltimore called SPARC. The center has offered a number of basic services—like a place to shower, socialize and receive medication-assisted treatment. It provides syringe services, legal services, a food pantry, even yoga. I also sit on the board of the Harm Reduction Coalition, an organization that advocates and builds the capacity of community organizations to address the health needs of drug users in a way that emphasizes dignity and respect.

Many people have a visceral reaction to the idea that sex workers or people who use drugs deserve practical support. There is a tendency to see such populations through the prism of "otherness"—people who have just made bad choices and are really distinct from the communities where we live, work, socialize and raise our children.

Now the threats posed by an outbreak of a dangerous infectious disease are presenting a stark choice. It's testing our public health policies and, on a more fundamental level, our humanity.

We can allow the COVID-19 pandemic to greatly intensify the isolation of marginalized people in ways that will just further endanger their health and, to be blunt, likely kill many of them at higher rates than the general population. Alternatively, we can tap into the sense of communal responsibility generated by this pandemic and extend the boundaries of compassion. By doing so we can help drive support for practical interventions in the same way many of us are now seeking new measures to protect other vulnerable people in our midst—like our parents, grandparents and people with compromised immune systems.

For example, there has been a decadeslong effort to improve access to buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction. There are still far too many barriers, despite the abundance of evidence of efficacy. But the need today has never been greater. While it may not have made the list of many people's COVID-19 concerns, it soon could become a lot harder for users to obtain opioids like fentanyl. The option is either treatment, if available, or expand the hunt for drugs.

It turns out the center of the coronavirus outbreak, Wuhan, has also been a hub for fentanyl that has driven the opioid epidemic in America. On the face of it, this could slow its flow into the U.S., which is good. But it could also intensify the pursuit of drugs in ways that create larger concentrations of people seeking to purchase and use together. When staving off

By **SUSAN G. SHERMAN**

The Baltimore Sun

Susan Sherman (sshernan@jhu.edu) is a professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her work is focused on improving the health of marginalized populations, particularly that of sex workers and people who use drugs.



the agony of withdrawal, social distancing is likely to be the least of your concerns.

Governments can act now to expand access to safe opioids—notably methadone and buprenorphine. They can allow access to methadone outside of special methadone clinics and lift restrictions on providers that limit the number of patients they can support with a buprenorphine prescription. In leveling the playing field for all members of society, now is a good time to approach medications for treating opioid use disorders the same way we treat all other medications—as something to be prescribed and supervised by medical professionals, but not administered by them.

But we must also accept that not everyone is ready to seek treatment. And if we want to reduce infection risks, we need to ramp up other harm reduction interventions like syringe services, overdose prevention sites and access to things like food stamps and Medicaid—and without requiring drug testing. Currently, at least 15 states require some level of drug testing or screening for public assistance programs.

Meanwhile, sex workers and people who use drugs are highly mobile and often hidden populations. Effective interventions require mobile services that use vans equipped with everything from food to safe injection equipment to hygiene kits. In this current environment, our SPARC Center has established a hotline to connect people with necessary services. We're also focused on mental health and stress relief. We provide yoga and twerk workshops, online virtual services that help maintain a connection with people in need and normalcy.

The COVID-19 pandemic is demanding a lot from all of us and exposing weaknesses across society that have been allowed to fester for decades. But it's also an opportunity to embrace our better selves, both to reduce the spread of this disease and to affirm a more expansive sense of community. Many people have a hard time accepting the idea of services without judgement. The COVID-19 outbreak can help us all understand that this outlook is neither practical nor humane.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Rushing to reopen the economy could be a disaster. Here's why

The staggering economic consequences of the social distancing edicts adopted across most of the nation last month have led to a vigorous debate over whether, to use President Donald Trump's term, the "cure" for the coronavirus pandemic is worse than the virus itself.

With more than 16 million Americans seeking unemployment benefits after losing their jobs in recent weeks, the argument is worth having. The groans were loud and on point when New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo declared last month that if "everything" state government did saved "just one life," the edicts would be worth it. Nearly 1 million New Yorkers have filed for unemployment since nonessential businesses were shuttered to slow the virus' spread. Increasingly, skeptics note the harsh health toll of economic anxiety, including its role in increasing suicide. If Cuomo's standard is the norm, how could any state allow motorcycles? Skydiving? Cliff climbing?

By Monday, announcements by Trump and two of his frequent adversaries—Cuomo and California Gov. Gavin Newsom—made clear that they are all eager to end the restrictions and accept some risk by limiting social distancing before too long. California, Oregon and Washington will sync their efforts. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island are coordinating their responses as well.

The big question, of course, is when. Two others are: Are these leaders and members of the newly named White House task force on reopening the economy getting ahead of what experts think? And is there a chance that the decisions made going forward will backfire spectacularly?

I'd argue that the answers are yes and yes.

There is some genuinely excellent news for Californians. The University of Washington computer model that's been touted for its insights into the pandemic suggests the crest will peak in California this week and that COVID-19 deaths and new coronavirus cases will begin to decline in the Golden State. And Newsom's first-in-the-nation stay-home edict on March 19 may save him from the ignominy he would have deserved for trusting Trump to help California and other states as vigorously as a normal president would have.

But the consensus of a dozen economists interviewed by the New York Times about the idea the economy could be back to normal by early summer was that it reflected "at best mildly informed guesses" by political leaders.

And history has daunting lessons for policymakers. Until there is a vaccine for coronavirus, it will remain something that spreads quite readily from person to person, and the spreaders will often be asymptomatic and unaware of the danger they pose. In history's worst pandemic—the Spanish flu apocalypse of 1918-1919, which infected one-third of the planet and killed 50 million people—public health authorities twice believed they had controlled influenza only to see it come roaring back. Both the second and the third waves of Spanish flu were far more deadly than the first.

There is a good reason to think that won't necessarily happen with coronavirus in the United States. But that reason also shows why reopening public life isn't anything like flicking an on/off switch on the economy.

It's that Americans—who are far better informed and much more prosperous than they were a century ago—aren't likely to salute Trump, Newsom and Cuomo (especially Trump, who depicted coronavirus as no big deal until Wall Street began to col-

By CHRIS REED

The San Diego Union-Tribune

Chris Reed is deputy editor of the San Diego Union-Tribune editorial and opinion section. Twitter: @chrisreed99. Email: chris.reed@sduniontribune.com.



lapse) and return to their old way of living after being directed to do so. Just because political leaders want a return to normalcy doesn't mean that it will happen.

We shouldn't just expect millions of Americans to routinely wear face masks in public going forward—as millions of Asians have for decades—or to be far more aware of and worried about everyone's coughs and sneezes. We should understand that being in crowded places now seems dangerous to anyone who is following developments—and many of these people will never stop thinking that way even when national leaders declare the virus crisis to be behind us.

Shelly Palmer, an often-insightful technology consultant and blogger, wrote Sunday that he thinks profound changes in consumer behavior are going to be the new norm, and that it's possible that half of all restaurants and bars never reopen.

In such a world, coronavirus' second wave isn't likely to be nearly as bad as its first. Unfortunately, in such a world, the broad prosperity of 2019 will seem like a distant dream—unless humanity comes up with a vaccine, and quickly.

Without one, prepare for a great cratering of society. And, born of poverty, another pandemic—one of individual depression.

America is returning to 1781

COVERD-19 is not just changing Americans' daily lives, it may also transform their system of government. On many important current issues, the U.S. may end up with an arrangement that looks more like the Articles of Confederation than the Constitution.

Consider how this might evolve. First, states and regions are recovering (or not) at dramatically different rates. The worst may be over for much of California and Washington state—but New York City, because of its density and reliance on the subway, may find the problem especially difficult to control. Louisiana is on the verge of catastrophe, while some other states, such as Virginia, are still not sure how bad it will be.

In this context, COVID-19 is the top political, economic and social issue. It is not simply about spending trillions of dollars or monetizing the debt, which most Americans view as abstract issues. The question is when and how to relax the current lockdowns. And the lockdown is the No. 1 feature of just about everyone's life at the moment—even in states not officially or completely locked down.

President Donald Trump appears to believe he has the authority to reopen the country and may do so as soon as next month. Whether or not that is wise, the federal government cannot reopen the country on its own. The actual shutdown orders came from governors, and it is governors who will have to lift them—perhaps acting in concert, without the federal government. Furthermore, objective conditions will have to be sufficiently positive that people will in fact respond and head out to stores, restaurants and other public spaces once again.

As May begins, it seems highly likely that the states will be re-

opening at their own paces and with their own sets of accompanying restrictions, with some places not reopening at all. There is likely to be further divergence at the city and county level, with say New York City having very different policies and practices than Utica or Rochester upstate.

Such divergence in state policy is hardly new. But until now states have typically had many policies in common, on such broad issues as education and law enforcement and on narrower ones such as support for Medicaid. Now and suddenly, on the No. 1 issue by far, the states will radically diverge.

Hence the idea that America is inching closer to what it was under the Articles of Confederation, which governed the U.S. from 1781 to 1789. The U.S. constitutional order has not changed in any explicit manner, but the issues on which the states are allowed to diverge have gone from being modest and relatively inconsequential to significant and meaningful if not dominant.

This divergence may create further pressures on federalism. In Rhode Island, for example, state police have sought to stop cars with New York state license plates at the border, hindering or delaying their entrance. Whether such activities are constitutional, most governors do have broad authority to invoke far-reaching emergency powers.

As some states maintain strict lockdowns while others reopen and allow COVID-19 to spread, such border-crossing restrictions could become more common—and more important. Maryland has been stricter with pandemic control than has Virginia, so perhaps Maryland will deny or discourage entry from Virginia—in metropolitan Washington, there are only a few bridges crossing the river that divides the two states. Or

sonal protective equipment, not just for health care workers but for the general public, are key to getting folks back to work and the economy up and running.

Again, we're seeing progress on all these fronts. As Birx told reporters this past week, we're now testing between 118,000 and 120,000 people in the U.S. for the virus each day. And mask production, with the help of Texas companies like Prestige Ameritech in cooperation with the Texas National

By TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.



maybe Delaware won't be so keen to take in so many visitors from New Jersey, while Texas will want to discourage or block migration from Louisiana.

These interstate divergences and divisions would then matter all the more, as cross-state migration would be less likely to equalize outcomes. The federal government might try to persuade the states to act differently, or Congress might try to use federal aid to leverage state-level policy. Or it might not. And it's easy to imagine Trump ignoring or even enflaming the issue, so he has someone or some place to attack and blame.

The best outcome, and maybe also the best bet, would be for this "new federalism" to end alongside the reign of panic driven by COVID-19. Still, is there not at least a small chance that the federalist compact will be rewritten more permanently? It's already the case that California, Oregon and Washington have formed a pact to govern reopening and COVID-19 control. What if states and cities enjoy their newfound autonomy on issues that matter? In that case, the pandemic might succeed in changing the very meaning of the term "the United States."

Guard, is skyrocketing across the country.

Instead of shooting the messenger, we should be listening to experts like Fauci and Birx and understanding that we will win this fight. Not by political sniping or pitting some members of the White House task force against others. But by analyzing real data as quickly, safely and scientifically as possible, and collectively adjusting our public health strategies accordingly.

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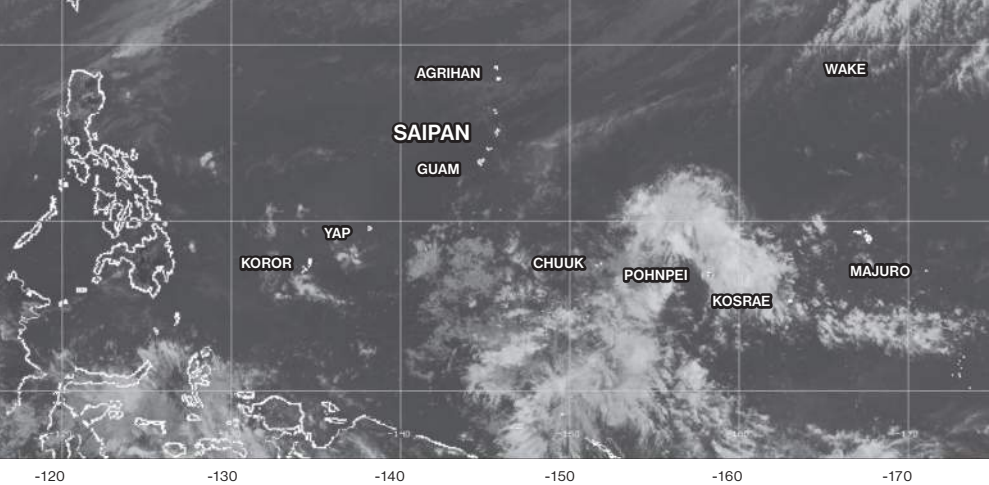
From Page 8

sible, forgoing—if not losing—our jobs. The government's massive fiscal stimulus will help bridge this awful chasm for many.

But widespread testing, better mitigation strategies such as ramped up production and distribution of masks and other per-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
89°	77°	87°	76°	87°	77°	88°	77°	89°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:24 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The Marianas sits between two weather features, a cold front to the northwest moving southeast and trade-wind convergence to the south moving primarily westward. The cold front is expected to stall north of the CNMI. Today will be mostly sunny and dry for Guam and Rota while Saipan and Tinian can expect more clouds. Moisture levels will be increasing across the Marianas starting Thursday leading to mostly cloudy skies and isolated showers. The latest model runs show the trade-wind disturbance moving farther north and, which could lead to scattered showers for Thursday and Friday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:02 AM	6:31 PM
Friday	6:01 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:34 AM	1:07 PM	-
Friday	2:19 AM	1:59 PM	-
Saturday	3:01 AM	2:48 PM	-
Sunday	3:40 AM	3:36 PM	-
Monday	4:16 AM	4:23 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	70° / 63°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	72° / 46°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 72°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 71°	
London	Partly Cloudy	70° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	68° / 52°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	52° / 37°	
Osaka	Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°	
Busan	Rain	61° / 52°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	70° / 48°	
Salem	Sunny	74° / 49°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°	
Seoul	Thunderstorms	61° / 46°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	59° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	57° / 41°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73	
9:57 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19	
2:00 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.44	
9:27 PM	LOW TIDE	0.21	

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 14, 2020



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE LISTING AS OF APRIL 14, 2020



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
• **Cashier & Customer Service**
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 664-4282
Pay bills online at www.cucgov.org
or via phone by calling toll free 1-(855)-729-2282



Department of Finance
• **Division of Revenue & Taxation**
CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Tel: (670) 664-1000



Division of Customs Services
• **Airport:** OPEN DAILY
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• **Seaport:** Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
• **Chalan Kanoa Post Office:**
Monday - Friday 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Saturday 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM



Department of Public Lands
• CASHIER ONLY
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Tel: (670) 234-3751/52/53/54



Department of Public Works
• **Solid Waste Management Division**
• **Lower Base Transfer Station**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2745
• **Morpi Landfill**
Open all week except Wednesday
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-2761



Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
• Available via phone or email only on Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Tel: (670) 322-6537/38
Email: maryann@ovrgov.net



Office of the Attorney General
• **Civil & Criminal Divisions**
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8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Tel: (670) 237-7500/7600



Office of the Public Defender
• Monday - Friday
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
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CNMI State Medicaid Agency
Eligibility staff are available to answer calls on Tuesday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM at Tel: (670) 664-4880/4882.
Accepting applications and supporting documents via drop-box at Medicaid Office.
Medicaid application & renewal/redetermination forms must be original.
Applications/forms available for pick up next to the drop-box or online at: www.medicaid.cnmi.mp



Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

- **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**
Accepting Calls From Existing Customers Only
Tel: (670) 287-1475
- **Division of Youth Services (DYS) On-Call**
Saipan: (670) 285-2780 / 287-2781 / 287-1773
Tinian: (670) 287-3268
Rota: (670) 287-2553
- **Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)**
For inquiries regarding parent eligibility requirements for CCDF Program:
Tel: (670) 783-8571 / (670) 783-8572
Email: dccajguerrero@gmail.com / ccdf.jrosario@gmail.com
- **Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC)**
For Recovery Arts Grant Application Submissions. Grant Guidelines are available at <http://www.cnmiartscouncil.org>
Tel.: (670) 287-4585
Email: parkeryobei@gmail.com
- **Historic Preservation Office (HPO)**
For Processing of Federal 106 Consultations Call
Tel: (670) 789-1986
Email: rchong.cnmihpo@gmail.com

Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP)
Benefit Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Application Pick Up: Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Application Submission:
Anytime via Drop-Box

Application Inquiries:
Tel: (670) 237-2801/2802

To download the NAP application and other forms go to dcca.gov.mp
Email: support@cnminap.gov.mp

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Business



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jang Gun Restaurant

re-opens; offers discounted items



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jang Gun Restaurant is offering discounts for take-out to help residents cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the top Korean restaurants on Saipan is offering discounts for take-out to help residents cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. Jang Gun Restaurant re-opened last week, albeit for take-out only and, as a service to its loyal customers, three items on its take-out menu will have a discount of 15%. Chief executive officer

Chan Seck Hong said the three items that are currently 15% off are their bestsellers—fried chicken, seasoned chicken, and soy chicken bento meals. All three come with a side order of rice. “It’s our own small way of thanking our customers for their loyalty,” he said. Aside from the three, Jang Gun Restaurant’s take-out menu, which ranges from \$4 to \$6, included bulgogi with rice, squid with rice, pork with

rice, and mackerel with rice, miso soup, and fried egg. Before the COVID-19 pandemic reached Saipan’s shores, the restaurant had one of the island’s best-value-for-your-buck Korean lunch buffets. Aside from its famous home-made kimchi, Jang Gun Restaurant’s smorgasbord includes more than four meat dishes like deji bulgogi, barbecue ribs, and pork curry and restaurant staples like fish roe, jajangmyeon, spicy squid,

Jang Gun Restaurant’s take-out menu ranges from \$4 to \$6 and includes bulgogi with rice, squid with rice, pork with rice, and mackerel with rice, miso soup, and fried egg.

fried chicken, Korean pancakes, and kimchi fried rice. On occasion it also served Korean versions of spaghetti, pancit (stir-fried noodles), and lumpia. The buffet also included desserts—fruit salad and

fresh fruits—as well as miso and corn soup, and iced tea. Jang Gun Restaurant, which literally means general in Korean, has been one of the top-ranked Korean restaurants on Saipan in the past 15 years.

It is located along Coral Tree Avenue in front of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and is open daily from 12pm to 6pm for take-out orders. To order, call 233-1516 or search “Jang Gun Restaurant” on Facebook.

New Trump advisory groups to consult on reopening US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he’s enlisting advisers from nearly all sectors of American commerce, the medical field and elected office to help shape his plans to reopen the coronavirus-battered economy. The panel of advisers, whom Trump said he will consult by phone, will operate separately from the White House task force that’s leading the administration’s public health strategy to contain and mitigate the pandemic, though there is expected to be some overlap. The panel, which the White House has dubbed the Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups, includes more than 50 executives and leaders from agricultural, de-

fense and financial service industries, as well as leaders from unions, professional sports, think tanks and more. The list of executives includes Apple’s Tim Cook, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and hedge fund manager Ken Griffin, all individuals with whom Trump has long-standing relationships. Trump also named some individuals who have been critical of him in the past, including former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and billionaire entrepreneur Mark Cuban. Trump added that he would likely announce on Wednesday the names of elected officials, including governors and members of Congress, whom he would also consult. “I’m confident that these

respected people ... will give us some great ideas in addition to what the governors have learned,” Trump said. Trump has insisted that he has “total” authority to decide how and when to loosen restrictions in the country — although the Constitution largely delegates such matters to the states. The president added on Tuesday that he plans to take action “in conjunction with governors.” He also signaled that he is ready to push for big swaths of the country to get back to business soon. He noted that some states have been less affected by the virus and will be ready to “open very very shortly, if not, almost immediately.” More than 25,000 Americans have been killed by the virus outbreak.

Major airlines line up to split \$25 billion in payroll aid

The nation’s biggest airlines have tentatively agreed to terms for \$25 billion in government aid to pay workers and avoid massive layoffs in an industry that has been slammed by the coronavirus pandemic. The assistance will include a mix of cash and loans, with the government getting warrants that can be converted into small ownership stakes in the leading airlines. Ten airlines — including Delta, American, United and Southwest — fell in line after objecting to some of the Treasury Department’s demands. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday that the department would work to finalize the deals and hand over the money as quickly as possible. He said talks were continuing with other carriers. The airlines entered 2020

riding a decade-long hot streak in which together they earned tens of billions of dollars due to strong travel demand. They bought new planes, enriched shareholders, and hired thousands more workers. That streak came to a crashing end in just a few weeks, as governments restricted travel to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, and people feared contracting the illness on a plane. Air travel ground to a near complete halt. Airlines cut thousands of flights, and those that remain often carry just a few passengers. With the payroll grants, airlines and their workers got special treatment in last month’s \$2.2 trillion measure designed to help businesses and workers get through the pandemic, which has hit every sector of the economy.

President Donald Trump —perhaps mindful of criticism that the government was bailing out a previously profitable industry — said the deals will support airline workers and protect taxpayers. “Our airlines are now in good shape, and they will get over a very tough period of time that was not caused by them,” Trump said. The payroll aid is roughly based on each airline’s spending on wages and benefits from April through September 2019. American Airlines said Treasury approved \$5.8 billion for the airline — a \$4.1 billion grant and a \$1.7 billion low-interest loan. CEO Doug Parker called it “fantastic news,” and “we now believe we have the financial resources necessary to help us withstand this crisis.”

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 23,949.76 +558.99 2.39%	S&P 2,846.06 +84.43 3.06%	NASDAQ 8,515.74 +323.32 3.95%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7508	Russian Ruble	72.5126
Australian Dollar	1.5613	Singapore Dollar	1.4144
British Pound	0.7934	Japanese Yen	106.9840
Canadian Dollar	1.3912	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2820
Chinese Yuan	6.9304	New Zealand Dollar	1.6489
Euro	0.9110	Philippine Peso	49.6235
		Taiwan Dollar	29.3156
		Thailand Baht	32.5510

Nation

In nod to governors, Trump walks back total authority claim

Vice President Mike Pence and President Donald Trump listen as people share their stories of recovering from COVID-19, in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Tuesday, April 14, 2020, in Washington. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said he's open to some states "re-opening" before federal social distancing guidelines expire at the end of month, as he appeared to back off his claim of absolute authority to decide when the time was right to act.

Hours after suggesting that the bipartisan concerns of governors about his assertion of power would amount to an insurrection, Trump abruptly reversed course Tuesday, saying he would leave it to governors to determine the right time and manner to revive activity in their states. He said he would be speaking with governors, probably on Thursday,

to discuss his plans.

"The governors are responsible," Trump said. "They have to take charge."

Still, he insisted, "The governors will be very, very respectful of the presidency."

Democratic and Republican governors had sounded the alarm after Trump asserted Monday that he and he alone would determine when and how to reopen the economy, despite clear constitutional limitations on federal powers.

Trump said Tuesday he would be authorizing governors "of each individual state to implement a reopening — and a very powerful reopen-

ing — plan of their state at a time and in a matter as most appropriate." Trump added that he would support moves by states that haven't been hit hard by the outbreak to ease restrictions even before federal guidelines on social distancing expire April 30.

Trump said the country would open up "in beautiful little pieces," adding that some states with low rates of infection "have fewer people and they have lots of room."

It's unclear if any states are actively considering reopening their economies before May 1.

In a departure from recent tradition, Trump ended his

daily briefing without turning the mic over to federal health experts, who have cautioned against moving too quickly to restart economic activity.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, told The Associated Press earlier Tuesday that the country is "not there yet" when it comes to the kind of testing and contact tracing needed to begin reopening the economy. But Trump made clear Tuesday he is intent on proceeding with his plans.

Trump outlined a vision in which workers would be tested, perhaps on a weekly basis, and governors would test travelers arriving at their

states' borders. But the U.S. is nowhere near having that kind of infrastructure, with testing still largely reserved for those with serious symptoms and results taking days to learn.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been working with other federal officials to develop detailed plans for how reopen-

ing should occur, including determining what measures will need to be tracked and what conditions met before such steps occur. The plans include separate steps for schools, businesses and other entities, the CDC's Dr. Anne Schuchat said. The proposals are currently under review, she added.

Military sees no quick exit from the 'new world' of coronavirus

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. military is bracing for a months-long struggle against the coronavirus, looking for novel ways to maintain a defensive crouch that sustains troops' health without breaking their morale — while still protecting the nation.

Unlike talk in the Trump administration of possibly reopening the country as early as May, military leaders are suggesting that this summer may be the best-case scenario of tiptoeing toward a return to normal activities. Even that is uncertain, and for now the focus is on adjusting as the pandemic's threat evolves.

"We are going to need to change and adapt, because even over the coming months the virus isn't going to go away. We're going to have to be able to operate in a COVID environment," Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist said recently, referring to the disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

Officials have frozen most forces in place overseas, stopped troops and their families from moving to new assignments, and cut back access to the Pentagon. The military services have halted or restricted recruit training, canceled major exercises, and isolated troops in the most sensitive units. The new Space Force has delayed a satellite launch, and the Navy this week postponed the return of the USS Harry S. Truman, keeping the aircraft carrier at sea to shield its crew from virus exposure at home.

These steps to protect the force have parallels in civilian society, but a far-flung military can't function by staying at home.

"This will be a new way of doing business that we have to focus on," says Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We're adjusting to that new world as we speak today."

Trump ends US aid to WHO, says not enough done to stop virus

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said he was cutting off U.S. payments to the World Health Organization during the coronavirus pandemic, accusing the organization of failing to do enough to stop the virus from spreading when it first surfaced in China.

Trump, who had telegraphed his intentions last week, claimed the outbreak could have been contained at its source and that lives could have been saved had the U.N. health agency done a better job investigating the early reports coming out of China.

"The WHO failed in its basic duty and must be held accountable," Trump said at

a Tuesday briefing. He said the U.S. would be reviewing the WHO's actions to stop the virus before making any decision on resuming aid.

There was no immediate comment from the Geneva-based organization on Trump's announcement. But when asked about possible U.S. funding cuts during a regular U.N. briefing earlier Tuesday, WHO spokeswoman Margaret Harris responded, "Regardless of any issues, our work will go on."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres responded to Trump's announcement by saying now is not the time to end support for the World Health Organization, calling

the WHO "absolutely critical" to the global effort to combat COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Guterres said that it is possible that different entities read the facts differently but that the appropriate time for a review is "once we have finally turned the page on this pandemic."

"But now is not that time," he said, adding that it also is not the time to reduce resources for operations at the WHO or any other humanitarian group that is working to combat the virus.

The United States contributed nearly \$900 million to the WHO's budget for 2018-19, according to information on the agency's website. That

represents one-fifth of its total \$4.4 billion budget for those years. The U.S. gave nearly three-fourths of the funds in "specified voluntary contributions" and the rest in "assessed" funding as part of Washington's commitment to U.N. institutions.

A more detailed WHO budget document provided by the U.S. mission in Geneva showed that in 2019, the United States provided \$452 million, including nearly \$119 million in assessed funding. In its most recent budget proposal from February, the Trump administration called for slashing the U.S. assessed funding contribution to the WHO to \$57.9 million.

Asia

Despite virus fears South Korea votes in nat'l polls

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean voters wore masks and moved slowly between lines of tape at polling stations on Wednesday to elect lawmakers in the shadows of the spreading coronavirus.

The government resisted calls to postpone the parliamentary elections billed as a mid-term referendum for President Moon Jae-in, who enters the final years of his term grappling with a historic public health crisis that is unleashing massive economic shock.

While South Korea's electorate is deeply divided along ideological and generational lines and regional loyalties, recent surveys showed growing support for Moon and his liberal party, reflecting the public's approval of an aggressive test-and-quarantine program so far credited for lower fatality rates compared to worst-hit areas in China, Europe and North America.

"We are going through difficult times, but the coronavirus and politics are two different things," 57-year-old Lee Kum said after voting in capital Seoul.

Another Seoul resident, Chung Eun-young, 45, said she arrived at her polling station just after 6 a.m. to avoid long lines.

"I was worried about the coronavirus," she said. "They checked my temperature and handed me gloves, but it wasn't

as bothersome as I thought it would be."

The long lines that snaked around public offices and schools followed record-high participation in early voting held on Friday and Saturday, and seemed to defy expectations of low voter turnout in the middle of an active campaign to minimize social contact to slow infections.

The voting in South Korea draws contrast with an upended election cycle in the United States, where some states pushed back presidential primaries or switched to voting by mail.

To hold the parliamentary elections as scheduled, South Korean election officials and health authorities drew up a deliberate set of preventive measures to reduce risks of the virus being transmitted.

Duct tape or stickers marked a meter (3 feet) of social-distancing space from nearby streets to ballot booths. Masked poll workers checked temperatures of arrivals and whisked anyone with a fever or not wearing a mask to separate areas to vote, sanitizing the facilities after they do. Voters who passed the fever screening got sanitizing gel and disposable plastic gloves before entering booths to cast their ballots.

The government also mapped

out a voting process for citizens quarantined at their homes, a number that ballooned after the country began enforcing two-week quarantines on all arrivals from overseas on April 1.

Officials texted eligible voters in self-quarantine before the vote and about 13,000 affirmed they wanted to participate. Those without fever or respiratory symptoms can temporarily leave their homes from 5:20 to 7 p.m. so they could cast their ballots after 6 p.m., when polling stations close for other voters.

Quarantined voters will be escorted or monitored through tracking apps and must maintain a 2-meter (6 feet) distance at polling places, while workers fully dressed in protective suits will disinfect booths after each of them vote.

Hospitalized virus patients were able to vote by mail if they had applied. Around 400 mildly ill patients participated in early voting at shelters.

South Korea has confirmed more than 10,590 infections and 225 deaths from COVID-19 with new cases declining in recent weeks. But there's concern about rising infections in the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area and worries that crowds at parks and on mass transportation may indicate a relaxing of social distancing.

China moves to block new virus flare-up on Russian border

BEIJING (AP)—China is facing a new coronavirus flare-up along its remote northern border with Russia, far from the epicenter of Wuhan, where it has all but declared victory in the battle against the pandemic.

The frontier has been sealed and emergency medical units rushed to the area to prevent travelers from bringing the virus back from overseas. The virus originated in China, which is now striving to keep it out while the U.S. and other countries struggle to bring their own epidemics under control.

The long, porous border of sprawling Heilongjiang province and neighboring Inner Mongolia has much less travel than major cities like Beijing and Shanghai. But it is a popular alternative route into the country. Many Chinese live and work in Russia, where China has major investments encouraged by warm ties between Beijing and Moscow.

By Monday night, a field hospital was operating in the city of Suifenhe along the Russian border, equipped with a negative

pressure lab to diagnose new cases. Staffed by 22 experts from the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention under the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it will conduct nucleic acid tests and other forms of research to aid in virus control and prevention, allowing the city to test up to 1,000 cases per day, according to the China CDC.

Suifenhe, a city of just under 70,000 that is frozen-in for much of the year, has at least 243 imported COVID-19 cases out of nearly 1,000 confirmed and suspected cases, according to official figures. More than 100 people in the area have tested positive for the virus but showed no symptoms. Recent arrivals from Russia account for nearly half of China's imported cases.

"We are facing a truly grave situation in the northeast as represented by Suifenhe," National Health Commission expert Wang Bin said Monday at a news conference. "Up to now our medical resources in the area have just not been suf-

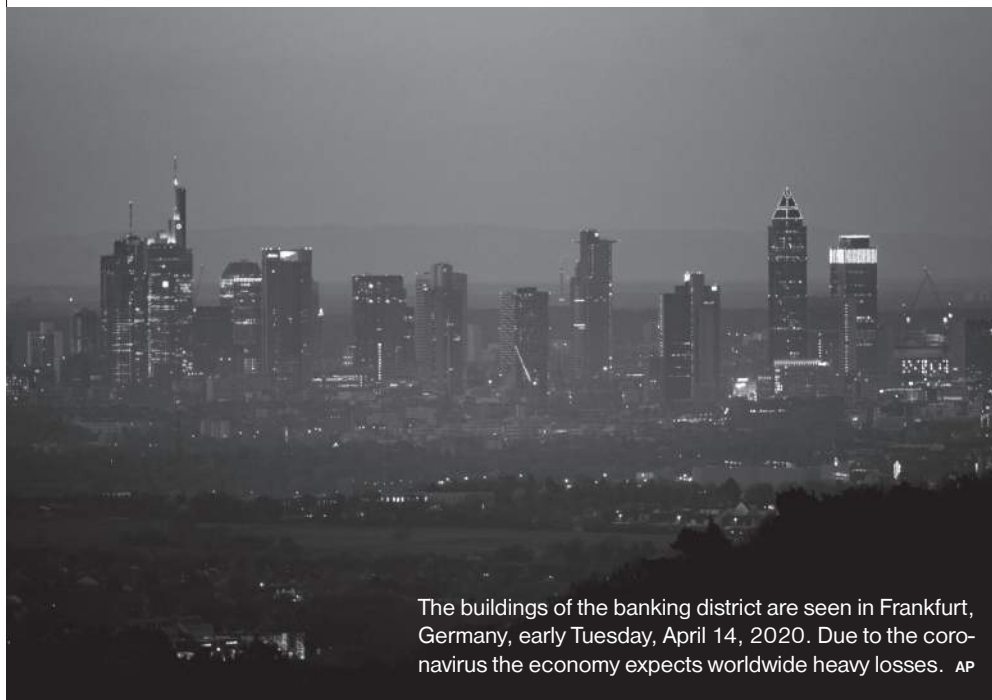
ficient."

China CDC said the field hospital has been supplied with negative pressure tents, nucleic acid extractors, virus detection kits, throat swab sampling tubes and thermal cyclers used to enhance segments of DNA via the polymerase chain reaction.

Suifenhe is roughly 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) northeast of Beijing. Its markets, selling warm clothing, cellphones and daily items, usually do a thriving business with Russian visitors starved for choice on their side of the border. That trade has gone quiet in recent weeks, dimming prospects for a sparsely populated region whose residents have been migrating to major cities seeking jobs and better living standards.

Russia requires 14-day quarantines for all travelers arriving in Primorsky Krai and its regional capital Pogranichny, across the border. It has closed hotels to visitors and is requiring travelers to have a pass showing they are not carrying the virus. Russia closed its land border to travelers from China in January.

World



The buildings of the banking district are seen in Frankfurt, Germany, early Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Due to the coronavirus the economy expects worldwide heavy losses. AP

IMF: Global economy will suffer worst year since Great Depression

WASHINGTON (AP)—Beaten down by the coronavirus outbreak, the world economy in 2020 will suffer its worst year since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the International Monetary Fund says in its latest forecast.

The IMF said Tuesday that it expects the global economy to shrink 3% this year — far worse than its 0.1% dip in the Great Recession year of 2009 — before rebounding in 2021 with 5.8% growth. It acknowledges, though, that prospects for a rebound next year are clouded by uncertainty.

The bleak assessment represents a breathtaking downgrade by the IMF. In its previous forecast in January, before COVID-19 emerged as a grave threat to public health and economic growth worldwide, the

international lending organization had forecast moderate global growth of 3.3% this year. But far-reaching measures to contain the pandemic — lockdowns, business shutdowns, social distancing and travel restrictions — have suddenly brought economic activity to a near-standstill across much of the world.

"The world has been put in a great lockdown," the IMF's chief economist, Gita Gopinath, told reporters. "This is a crisis like no other."

Gopinath said the cumulative loss to the global gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of economic output, could amount to \$9 trillion — more than the economies of Germany and Japan combined.

The IMF's twice-yearly World Economic Outlook

was prepared for this week's spring meetings of the 189-nation IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank. Those meetings, along with a gathering of finance ministers and central bankers of the world's 20 biggest economies, will be held virtually for the first time in light of the coronavirus outbreak.

In its latest outlook, the IMF expects economic contractions this year of 5.9% in the United States, 7.5% in the 19 European countries that share the euro currency, 5.2% in Japan and 6.5% in the United Kingdom. China, where the pandemic originated, is expected to eke out 1.2% growth this year. The world's second-biggest economy, which had gone into lockdown, has begun to open up well before other countries.

Search for a COVID-19 vaccine heats up in China, US

WASHINGTON (AP)—Three potential COVID-19 vaccines are making fast progress in early-stage testing in volunteers in China and the U.S., but it's still a long road to prove if they'll really work.

China's CanSino Biologics has begun the second phase of testing its vaccine candidate, China's Ministry of Science and Technology said Tuesday.

In the U.S., a shot made by the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc. isn't far behind. The first person to receive that experimental vaccine last month returned to a Seattle clinic Tuesday for a second dose.

NIH infectious disease chief Dr. Anthony Fauci told The Associated Press there

are "no red flags" so far and he hoped the next, larger phase of testing could begin around June.

A third candidate, from Inovio Pharmaceuticals, began giving experimental shots for first-step safety testing last week in the U.S. and hopes to expand its studies to China.

Initial tests focus on safety, and researchers in both countries are trying out different doses of different types of shots.

But moving into the second phase is a critical step that allows vaccines to be tested in many more people to look for signs that they protect against infection.

Last week, CanSino filed a report showing it aimed to enroll 500 people in this next

study, comparing two doses of the vaccine to dummy shots. As of Monday, 273 of the volunteers had been injected, state media said.

Looking ahead, Fauci said if the new coronavirus continues to circulate widely enough over the summer and fall, it might be possible to finish larger studies slightly sooner than the 12 to 18 months he'd originally predicted — maybe toward "mid to late winter of next season."

"Please let me say this caveat: That is assuming that it's effective. See, that's the big 'if,'" Fauci stressed. "It's got to be effective and it's got to be safe."

During a news conference in China, authorities also cautioned that the studies must be done properly.

Environment

Whales are dying, but numbers are unknown

By SUSANNE RUST AND
ROSANNA XIA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

As gray whales began their northern migration along the Pacific Coast earlier this month—after a year of unusually heavy die-offs—scientists were poised to watch, ready to collect information that could help them learn what was killing them.

The coronavirus outbreak, however, has largely upended that field work—and that of incalculable other ecological studies nationwide.

A large network of marine

biologists and volunteers in California normally spend this time of year keeping an eye on gray whales, documenting their numbers and counting strandings as the leviathans swim from Mexico to the Arctic.

Scott Mercer, who started Point Arena's Mendonoma Whale and Seal Study seven years ago, said the watch was called off last week, as he and his wife were told by a local sheriff to disperse and go home.

"I guess two people are now considered a public gathering," he said, with a

wry chuckle.

In Los Angeles, Alisa Schulman-Janiger said she had to shut her survey down March 20, meaning this will be the first

time in 37 years that data on the northern migration will not be complete.

"We had to," said Schulman-Janiger, director of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Cetacean Society. "We couldn't hazard anybody's health."

Up and down the West Coast and beyond, field re-

search on a variety of endangered, threatened and migrating species has ground to a halt. Plovers? Abalone? They are on their own now, as scientists are forced to stay at home.

Schulman-Janiger said that before her work was called off, she had noticed an unusually early migration, with several skinny whales.

Even more alarming, she said, were observations of moms with very small calves—baby whales that, to her eye, looked too small to be

making a 5,000-mile trip north.

"They looked like newborns," she said. "Like what you'd typically see in December or January. Not calves who'd just spent months nursing in the lagoons, getting stronger and bigger."

Last year, 215 gray whales were stranded on North America's Pacific Coast as they migrated north, sparking a federal investigation into this unusual die-off event.

This year, 49 have been stranded, so far, in Mexico.

As local authorities close a growing number of parks and beaches, notifications

and alerts about whale strandings and sightings will become increasingly erratic, she said, making it harder for researchers to know what is happening.

"Field teams may or may not respond to strandings and entanglements depending on the location and personnel availability," said Michael Milstein, spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, adding that the agency is advising its partners "to follow the guidance provided by local, state, and federal authorities."

It's not just whales.

» Coronavirus has stalled scientific field work



IN LOVING MEMORY † FRANCISCO FUJIHIRA BABAUTA

also known as "Tan Ko" or "Ku"

BORN ON AUGUST 18, 1959 & CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE
IN HONOLULU, HAWAII ON APRIL 09, 2020.



In his new life he now joins his:

Wife : †Justina Henrick Babauta
Parent : †Maria Fujihira & †Jose Palacios Babauta
Parents-in-law : †Elerite P. & †Narsisio Henrick
Sisters/in-laws : †Mina Maria Taga, †Emeteria Baladad and †Benedicta Henrick
Brothers/in-laws : †Jose Fujihira, †Edward Babauta, †Jose Ayuyu, †Henry Taga, †Jesus Hocog, †Arturo Baladad, †Luciano Henrick, †Mikel Henrick, and †Steve Loyola

He will be greatly be missed by his loving:

Children/Grandchildren:

Myrna Lynn H. Babauta (Edgar) : Devon Joel & Ethan Franklin
Maylynn H. Babauta : Kody Angel
Jayda H. Babauta : Jasmine Ha'Ane & Frankie Joe
Eldin N. Maratita (Susan): Eldin Jr., Tammy, John David & Elizha

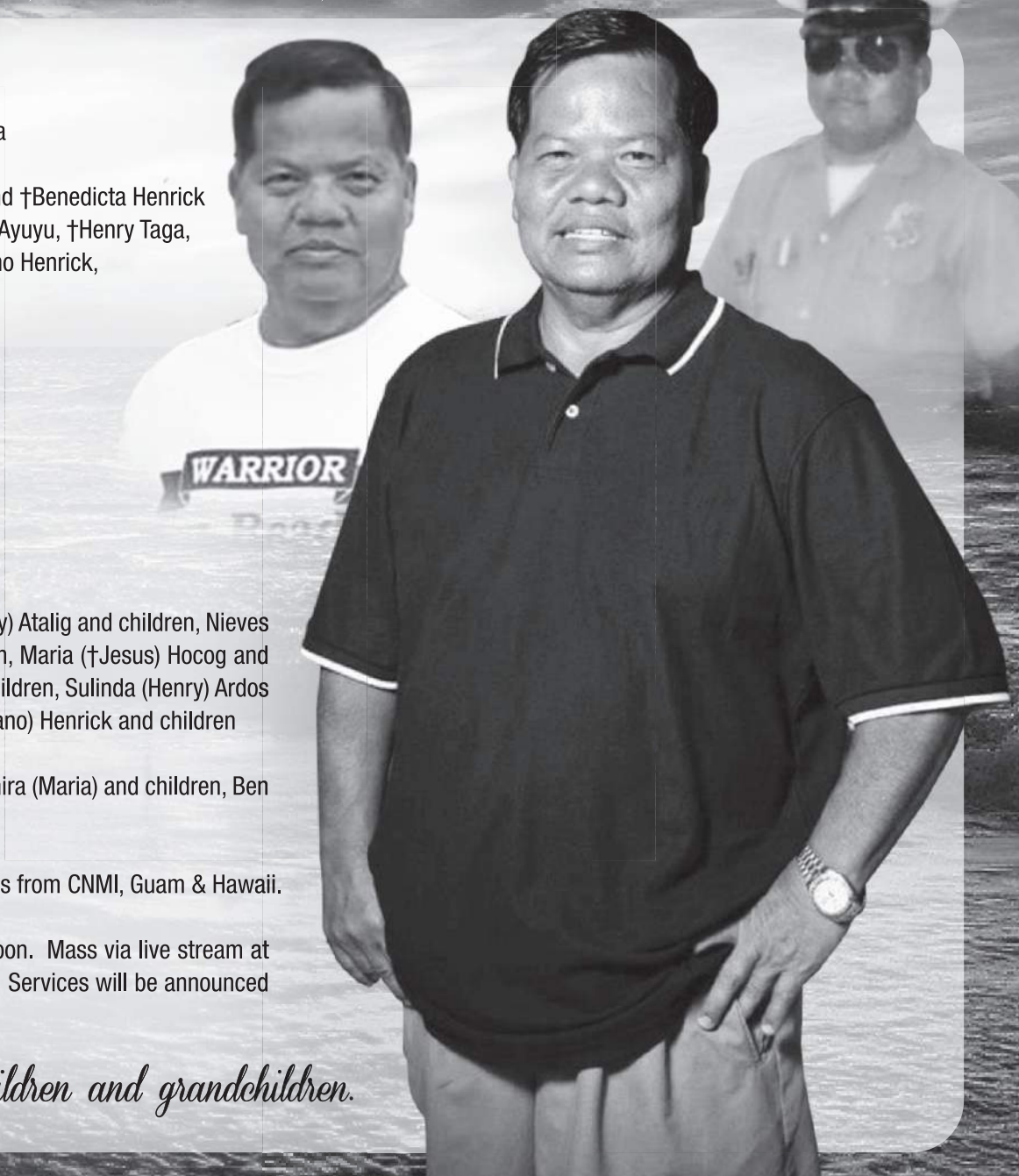
Sisters/In-laws: Ana (Albert) Lizama and children, Carmen (Anthony) Atalig and children, Nieves (†Jose) Ayuyu and children, Bobbie (†Edward) Babauta and children, Maria (†Jesus) Hocog and children, Marina (†Jose) Fujihira, Christina (Melton) Samuel and children, Sulinda (Henry) Ardos and children, Emerika (†Steve) Loyola and children, Bisenda (†Luciano) Henrick and children

Brothers/In-laws: Alejo (Virginia) Babauta and children, Angel Fujihira (Maria) and children, Ben Babauta & Mike Henrick

And numerous nieces, nephews, godchildren, friends and colleagues from CNMI, Guam & Hawaii.

Rosary is being held at his residence in Dandan, Saipan at 12:00noon. Mass via live stream at Diocese of Chalan Kanoa at 7am & 5pm through facebook. Funeral Services will be announced at a later date.

Thank you, Si Yuus Maase from the children and grandchildren.



Life & Style

Alex Trebek memoir to debut July 21, just before he turns 80

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Trebek, diagnosed last year with stage four pancreatic cancer, has written a memoir.

Simon & Schuster announced Tuesday that “The Answer Is...: Reflections on

My Life” will come out July 21, the day before his 80th birthday.

According to the publisher, the longtime “Jeopardy!” host will share “illuminating personal anecdotes” along

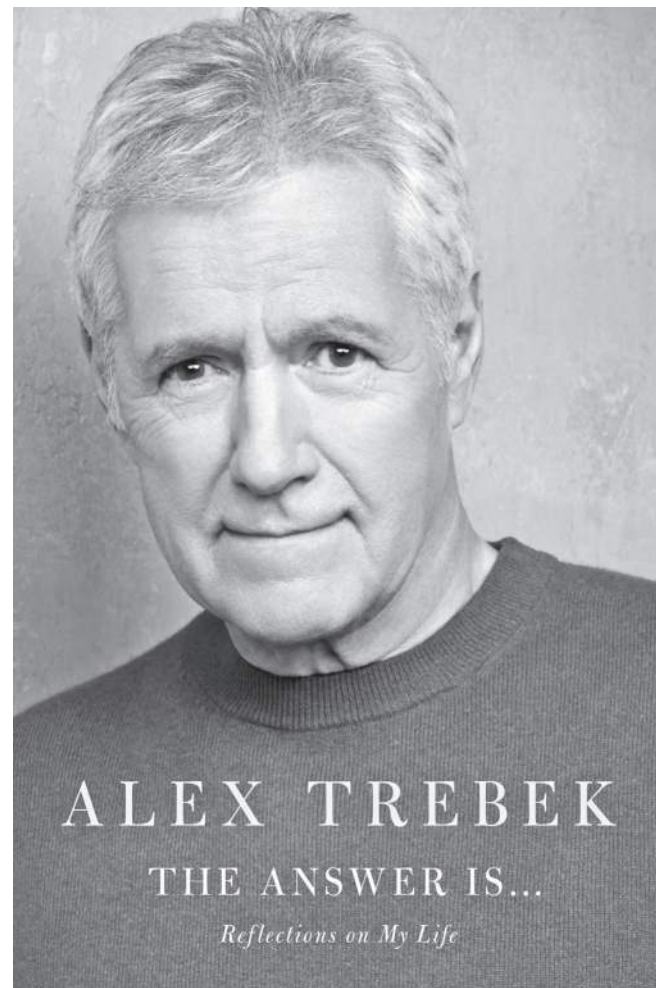
with thoughts on everything from his favorite guests to spirituality and philanthropy.

“I want people to know a little more about the person they have been cheering on for the past year,” Trebek

writes in his book.

AP

This cover image released by Simon & Schuster shows “The Answer Is...: Reflections on My Life,” a memoir by Alex Trebek, coming out July 21.



Singer Jon Bon Jovi asks kindergartners to ‘Do What You Can’

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—A Florida kindergarten teacher took his virtual classroom to new levels on Monday when rock icon Jon Bon Jovi popped in on a writing lesson about life in the coronavirus quarantine.

Last month, the Grammy award-winning 80s rocker released an incomplete version of “Do What You Can,” which is a ballad about the nation’s battle to contain the virus, and asked fans to submit verses to help complete it, the Palm Beach Post reported.

Michael Bonick, a teacher at Marsh Pointe Elementary School in Palm Beach Gardens and life-long Bon Jovi

fan, saw the singer’s invitation and found contact information online for a member of Bon Jovi’s staff. He sent along his students’ writings about being stuck at home in quarantine.

A staffer replied that Bon Jovi wanted to meet the kids, and he popped onto their laptop screens at 10 a.m. Monday.

“Mr. B got you guys writing and I was very excited to hear that,” the former Bon Jovi frontman told the students, “because if you get to put your feelings down on paper sometimes they’ll turn into songs, sometimes they’ll



Jovi

turn into stories and you never know where it might lead you.”

So far, the singer has received thousands of proposals online, some of which he works into performances of the song that he broadcasts online from his home in New Jersey.

As the 20 kindergartners—and their parents—watched, Bon Jovi strummed an acoustic guitar and sang out three kindergartners’ writing prompts about life in quarantine, each one touching on themes of idleness and isolation.

After singing eight lines

ending with, “My parents try their best/But I can tell that they’re stressed,” he congratulated the author, a boy named A.J.

“You’re a rock and roll star,” he said. “We wrote this one together, me and you buddy.”

Bonick made the homework assignment last week and encouraged the young children to write about where they are and who they are with. He said the recurring theme was being stuck at home, which is fine because he wants the young writers to document their lives in such an extraordinary time.

“Once we get out of this—because we will get out of this—it’s history,” he said.

Options dwindle for postponed Cannes Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—The Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday abandoned plans for a postponed 2020 edition in June or July but declined to give up entirely, saying it will explore other options.

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday extended France’s national lockdown due to the coronavirus pandemic, banning all public events until mid-July. That essentially dashed the hopes of Cannes

organizers who last month said they would aim to move the annual May event a month or two.

“It is clearly difficult to assume that the Festival de Cannes could be held this year in its original form,” the festival said in a statement.

The film industry is increasingly expecting Cannes, the world’s largest film festival and movie market, will be canceled. But the festival on Tuesday said it’s still exam-

ining other possibilities that might allow Cannes to carry on in some fashion.

“Since yesterday evening we have started many discussions with professionals, in France and abroad,” said the festival. “They agree that the Festival de Cannes, an essential pillar for the film industry, must explore all contingencies allowing to support the year of Cinema by making Cannes 2020 real, in a way or another.”

NBC’s Peacock launching in July with ‘handful’ of originals

NBCUniversal says its video-streaming service Peacock will launch nationally in July as planned, even though just a handful of its original series will be ready.

The service was meant to have a mix of originals, classic shows and movies, and current NBC programming like its late-night shows and “Law & Order: SVU.” Original shows are key to hooking consumers

inundated with new streaming services, but the coronavirus pandemic has largely shut down Hollywood production.

Peacock was also supposed to get a big push from the Olympics this summer, but the quadrennial games have been postponed until 2021.

Peacock now expects to have “dozens” of premieres of originals in 2021, said

Matt Strauss, the company’s chairman. It’s tricky to predict when Hollywood production will return to normal after the coronavirus shutdown.

Peacock is rolling out Wednesday to Comcast subscribers as a sort of test before the national launch. It is still targeting July for a national rollout, but is also looking at moving up the date.

Invitations to marketing parties overwhelm uninterested friend

DEAR ABBY: I’m in my mid-40s, and a LOT of my female friends are involved in multilevel marketing companies. Whether it be for eyelashes, supplements, jewelry, antiaging products, candles, leggings, etc., I receive nonstop “invitations” to buy their products.

I’m old enough to know from experience that most of the products are rubbish, and many times way overpriced. I’m simply not interested. How do I politely (yet firmly) decline the invitations that come my way without hurting their feelings?

MULTILEVEL MARKETING HATER

DEAR MULTILEVEL MARKETING: It’s time you recognize the difference between a friendship and a marketing ploy. If you are invited to something, feel free to ask whether there will be any selling and, if there will be, decline. To do so is not being rude or hurtful. Women who are really your friends will continue to be, and those who aren’t will disappear.

DEAR ABBY: My mom and stepdad occasionally watch my children to help us out or to spend time with them. I just found out that Mom will not put my 8-month-old into a crib or Pack ‘n Play to sleep. She puts her into bed along with my 4-year-old son. I have asked my mother repeatedly not to do that, not only for

safety, but so everyone can sleep. She refuses. She says I should trust them, and they should be allowed to do whatever they want when the kids are with them. Please tell me what to do.

FRUSTRATED DAUGHTER

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Why you should trust someone who deliberately ignores your wishes is beyond me. Let me tell you what NOT to do. Do not allow your children to stay with your mother under these circumstances. Sometimes Mama does NOT know best, and this is one of them. If you prefer your children not share the same bed, your wishes should be respected.

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I live quite far from town and spend a lot of time in the car—usually his. He bought some air fresheners for his car, which made me nauseated and gave me headaches. I asked him to please remove them, but he refused because he doesn’t want to waste the \$2.50. He said he likes the smell.

Abby, we have two other vehicles we can take. I felt it was such a small thing he could do to make me feel better. He doesn’t agree. What is your opinion on the matter?

STUNK UP IN FLORIDA

DEAR STUNK: You may be allergic to something in

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

that air freshener, which is why you got the headache and became nauseated. Asking your boyfriend to remove it was a small thing—not like asking him to remove a limb. If he were less self-centered and more considerate, he would have accommodated you.

In my opinion, you should take one of the other cars when you drive together.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

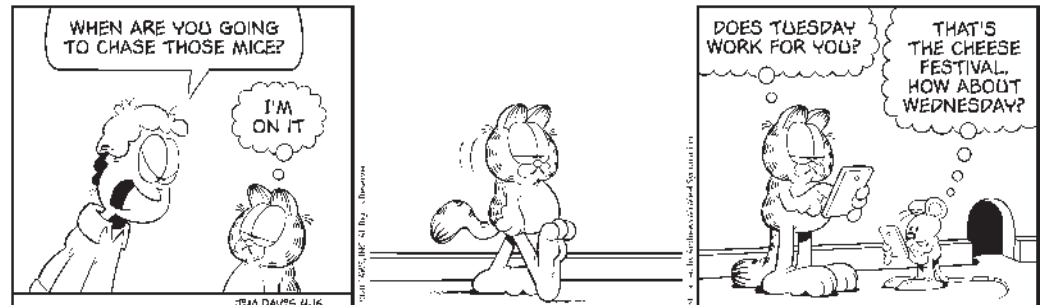
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Heap
5 Physiques
9 USMC
12 Persia,
today
13 Sitarist
Shankar
14 Reaction
to a light
show
15 Vacation
mailings
17 — Lanka
18 Main dish
19 Ancient
Mexican
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28 Prying
31 Fuss
32 Illustrations
33 Born
34 Stinger
36 Judge
Lance
37 Bump into
38 Squads
40 That guy

DOWN

3 Endure
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6 Scull need
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8 Twine
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11 Swank
16 Cartoon
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20 California
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23 Golden
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24 Attorney's
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42 Asia's —
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44 Aspiring
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45 "Suffice
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46 Adolescent
49 Poem
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50 "Chan-
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singer

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jon Cryer, 55; Martin Lawrence, 55; Ellen Barkin, 66; Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, 73.

Happy Birthday: Don't settle for less when you can have so much more. Expand your interests, and explore what life has to offer. Take a step forward using all your skills and experience to reach the next level. Refuse to let someone's indulgent behavior hold you back or discourage you from doing your best. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 26, 32, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): What you offer others will help you get what you want in return. Call in favors, and dedicate more time to reaching your goal. Say what's on your mind, and follow through with your plans. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go about your business. Give others the benefit of the doubt, and don't interfere. A move or change may tempt you, but stay put and take care of unfinished business before jumping into something new. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take pride in what you do. Hard work will make you feel good as well as raise interest in what you have to offer. You can make personal gains and useful connections. Speak up, and press forward with confidence. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep the past where it belongs. Loss, anger and upset will not help you reach your goal, but an innovative approach coupled with the will-

ingness to adapt to the changes taking place will encourage a positive outcome. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stick to the truth, or your reputation will be jeopardized. Don't give in to someone putting pressure on you to make a move. Bide your time, look over your options and sit tight until you feel comfortable with an offer you receive. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Push for what you want, but don't force others to take part. Don't be fooled by someone who makes a big splash but never follows through. Make a change based on what's right for you, not someone else. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Use intelligence and sophistication to get your way. Your ability to charm your way to the top will help, but make sure you have the goods to honor the promises you make along the way. Keep your plans and your life simple. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional upset will surface if you can't agree with someone close to you. If you want the freedom to do your own thing, you will have to give others the same in return. Concentrate on fleshing out a good plan before moving forward. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The effort you put into pursuing a better position or making a change that will enhance the way you live or how you handle your money will pay off. Home improvements will add to your comfort and revive a meaningful relationship. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change is useful only if it benefits you. Don't give in to someone pestering you to do something risky or expensive. Moderation will be the best way to avoid loss and protect your reputation. ★★★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Anger and revenge won't lead to satisfaction. Don't make a premature decision if you feel uneasy. Stick close to home, pamper yourself and nurture your soul. Follow your heart. Do what will benefit you. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check references before you get involved in something that may not be right for you. Avoid sharing plans that can give someone the upper hand. Protect your assets, and don't buy in to something that has too many risks. ★★★★★

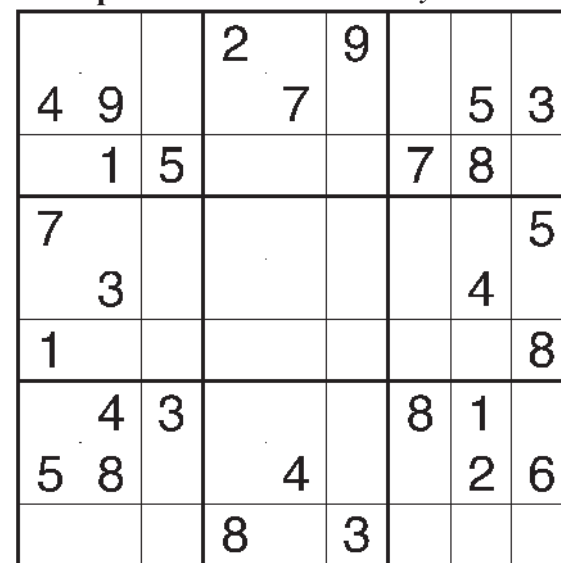
Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, intense and motivated. You are sensitive and helpful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



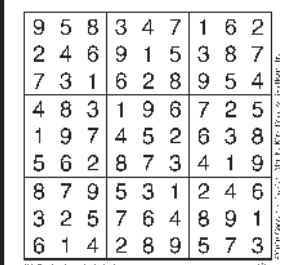
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/16

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST

Solution: 10 letters



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Area, Bears, British, Canada, Cedar, Columbia, Coala, Cougars, Dean, Deer, Discovery, Dolphins, Fjords, Gardner, Grizzly, Hawkesbury, Islands, Kermode, Kitlope, Knight, Lush, Marine, Mountains, Nature, North, Ocean, Otters, Park, Plaque, Portland, Protects, River, Roadless, Rupert, Size, Spruce, Stewart, Streams, Whale, Wilderness
Yesterday's Answer: Gardens
The NEW Treasury 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Free agency spree sets stage for Raiders draft



NEVADA (AP)—The Las Vegas Raiders spent most of the free agency period bolstering one of the NFL's worst defenses, with one glaring exception.

While the Raiders added a pair of starting linebackers in Cory Littleton and Nick Kwiatkowski, a new free safety in Damarious Randall and rotational players on the defensive line in Carl Nassib and Maliek Collins, they were unable to add much of anything at cornerback.

The team made a run at free agents like Byron Jones and Chris Harris Jr., who ended up signing elsewhere, and had a deal with Eli Apple fall through over a failed physical.

So now heading into the draft, general manager Mike Mayock has few proven options on his roster at a crucial position. But that doesn't mean he's ready to take a cornerback with one of his two first-round picks at No. 12 and No. 19 overall.

"I think the biggest mistake that people make is trying to reach for needs," Mayock said Tuesday. "The board will fall whatever way it falls. If we're fortunate enough to get a corner, that would be great."

There are plenty of promising cornerback prospects who should be available in the first round if Mayock decides to go in that direction.

Players like Florida's C.J. Henderson, Clemson's A.J. Terrell, LSU's Kristian Fulton, Alabama's Trevon Diggs, Utah's Jaylon Johnson and TCU's Jeff Gladney all could be options in that area of the draft.

The Raiders currently have eight cornerbacks on their roster, but only Nevin Lawson and Ken Crawley have started more than 10 games in the NFL and neither are proven options.

The Raiders are high on second-year player Trayvon Mullen, who showed some flashes in starting the final 10 games last season after being drafted in the second round. Isaiah Johnson and Keisean Nixon played only sparingly as rookies but also could contribute this year.

"We feel like we have a bunch of talented young kids that we don't know enough about yet," Mayock said. "We have four or five young corners that we're kind of intrigued by. Do we think we need to get better there? Yeah."

The Raiders also made some key additions on offense in free agency, signing backup quarterback Marcus Mariota, receiver Nelson Agholor and veteran tight end Jason Witten.



AP
In this March 1, 2020 file photo, LSU defensive back Kristian Fulton runs a drill at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis.

for 12,977 yards in his career with Dallas.

"If there's a Mount Rushmore of NFL tight ends, he's on it," Mayock said. "I know he's 37 years old and I know we have a pretty good tight end room, but when you talk about bringing in a guy like him, not only can he still play... but on top of that, he brings this wealth of knowledge about how to be a professional."

Mariota also gives the Raiders a proven backup at quarterback behind starter Derek Carr. The No. 2 overall pick by Tennessee in 2015, Mariota lost his starting job last season with the Titans.

Mariota dealt with a revolving door of play-callers and receivers during his time in Tennessee. He made 61 career starts and played 63 games in five seasons, with his best performance coming during his second year in 2016 when he threw 26 touchdown passes and had a 95.6 passer rating.

Both Mayock and coach Jon Gruden were high on Mariota going into the draft and still believe he has talent.

"He has to get healthy," Mayock said. "We're going to rebuild him a little bit and get his confidence back and build him up from the ground up. It's going to take a little while to get him healthy and where he wants to be. We're excited about the quarterback room."

In Washington, Guard Mike Iupati is returning to the Seattle Seahawks on a one-year deal, joining a glut of free agent additions focused on the offensive line.

A person with knowledge of the deal confirmed Iupati's agreement with the Seahawks on Tuesday. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because it had not been announced by the team. NFL Network first reported the agreement.

Iupati started 15 games at left guard last season for Seattle, his first with the Seahawks. He was solid for most of the season but did not play in either of Seattle's playoff games due to a neck stinger suffered late in the season.

The decision to bring back Iupati adds another name to a long list of offensive linemen Seattle has added this offseason.

The Seahawks also reached deals with tackles Brandon Shell and Cedric Ogbuehi and interior linemen B.J. Finney and Chance Warmack.

Tight end didn't appear to be a position of need, with breakout star Darren Waller

set at starter and Foster Moreau expected to be fully recovered from a knee injury

that cut short a promising rookie year. The Raiders also have versatile Derek Carrier

but still signed Witten, who turns 38 next month.

Witten has 1,215 catches

Cousins not worried by Vikes' departures

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Kirk Cousins has taken a new contract into this increasingly uncertain 2020 season, keeping his place as Minnesota's quarterback for what will likely be at least another three years.

Whenever he takes the field next with the Vikings, he'll have a lot of new teammates around him, too. An expected exodus of several mainstay players, prompted by a salary cap crunch, was accelerated when dissatisfied wide receiver Stefon Diggs was traded to Buffalo the same day—March 16—Cousins agreed to the \$66 million extension.

Roster turnover is an NFL reality, just as on the coaching staff. The appointment of Gary Kubiak to take over the job, following the departure of Kevin Stefanski, meant Cousins will play for a fifth offensive coordinator in five seasons.

"We've got to play the hand we're dealt," Cousins said on a video conference call he took part on Tuesday from his parents' house in the Orlando, Florida, area, where he and his wife, Julie, recently settled for extra help with

their two young boys.

While Adam Thielen missed half of the season because of a hamstring injury, Diggs helped Cousins post career bests as a starter in passer rating, yards per attempt, touchdown percentage, interception percentage and, most importantly, wins. That included his first post-season victory, at New Orleans in the wild-card round.

"It became apparent that he wanted to play elsewhere, and I think it was smart of the Vikings to grant him that opportunity," Cousins said. "It wasn't a mystery, and that's OK. I wish him really well. I just so enjoyed playing with him. He's a special player."

Diggs has not been available to reporters since the deal that fetched the Vikings four draft picks, including an extra first-rounder for next week.

He has yet to fully elaborate on why he wanted a move, though the preference of coach Mike Zimmer and Kubiak to emphasize the run first in the offense surely did not help his outlook.

In an essay published re-

cently by The Players' Tribune, Diggs expressed his appreciation of and respect for Cousins, quieting some of the speculation that he wasn't happy with his quarterback.

"My text message to him said something along the lines of, 'You're as good as any receiver I've ever played with,'" Cousins said, adding: "There were a lot of games where his talent makes an enormous difference. I just wanted to let him know that, and I'm sure the Bills will be thrilled to have that."

Cousins described the deal as a "win-win" for what the Vikings were able to recoup, the same label he put on his new contract that stretches through the 2022 season.

He reduced his salary cap hit for 2020 by \$10 million, gaining \$31 million in newly guaranteed money and remaining among the league's highest-paid players.

"It was a no-brainer for me to want to be back with the Vikings and try to find a way to make it work," Cousins said, adding: "Whoever the quarterback is that delivers a world championship to the Minneso-

ta Vikings is going to be welcome in the state of Minnesota for the rest of their lives. I certainly want to be that quarterback, and we're working really hard to do that."

In the meantime, Cousins has been relying on basement and driveway workouts—"surprisingly efficient," he said—during the COVID-19 pandemic that has shut down NFL facilities and kept players from training together.

He's been thinking about the importance of running more when pressure forces him out of the pocket, a weapon that most of the league's best quarterbacks use often these days.

He's been staying optimistic about putting the purple jersey on later this year.

"With the provision that people and their lives and their health will be intact and be safe, I think we can and should get back to football, and I believe there are creative and unique ways to do it if necessary," Cousins said.

"I think it would be great for our country, for football fans, to be able to watch games come the fall on the weekends."

PGA Championship may be held sans fans



CALIFORNIA (AP)—The PGA Championship plans to be at Harding Park in San Francisco the first full week in August as the first major on the reconfigured golf calendar.

Still to be determined is whether Harding Park needs to bother building bleachers.

“We believe that holding it without fans is a possibility, something we should try to do if we have to,” said Seth Waugh, the CEO of the PGA of America.

The PGA Championship is still about four months out and golf, much like other sports, doesn’t have a starting line yet. The PGA Tour was looking at the potential of a mid-June start, although plans can change quickly.

Even so, Waugh said the PGA is looking at various options to be prepared.

“Plan A is to play with fans at Harding Park,” he said. “Plan B is no fans. Plan C is to call an audible if indeed we need to try to play it somewhere we can safely.”

California Gov. Gavin Newsom reacted with skepticism on April 4 after President Donald Trump had a conference call with commissioners of sports leagues, including Jay Monahan of the PGA Tour and Mike Whan of the LPGA Tour. Trump said later in the day he believed the NFL would start on time.

“I’m not anticipating that happening in this state,” Newsom replied.

What would that mean for golf? The sport and its arena are entirely different from seating in a stadium. The PGA Tour, when it was still trying to keep playing, had already laid out guidelines for not having fans at tournaments—a walking scorer, limited marshals on each hole, a reduced service staff.

Waugh said the PGA Championship doesn’t officially

have a contingency plan, which is not to suggest tournament officials haven’t given thought to how the summer could play out. He said they were having constant conversation with San Francisco city leaders on the status of the new coronavirus.

“If they were to pull the plug, we would have a drop-dead date,” he said.

Waugh did not say what that date would be, and he said the PGA of America so far was “feeling good about the city’s willingness” to stage the event.

Smaller purse

Meanwhile, the European Tour is warning its players that everything from prize money to player services will be different when golf resumes because of the COVID-19 pandemic that will have a “profound” financial impact, according to a British newspaper.

The Daily Telegraph reported Tuesday it has obtained a memo from chief executive Keith Pelley to members that outlines the sobering effect of the coronavirus that has shut down golf in Europe since early March.

Eight tournaments have been postponed. Five others, including the British Open, have been canceled. The next event still on the schedule is the BMW International Open in Germany from June 25-28.

Pelley said the pandemic has stopped the tour’s momentum in tournaments and prize money and will require it to reassess how it goes forward.

“You should therefore be prepared that when we do resume playing, the schedule and the infrastructure of tournaments could look radically different from what you have been used to,” the memo said. “Many of the things you have become accustomed to, such as top-class players’ lounges or courtesy car services will



AP
Photo taken Aug. 12, 2018, shows Tiger Woods during the final round of the PGA Championship at Bellerive Country Club in St. Louis, Missouri.

group that tried to reconfigure a golf schedule to salvage what it could of the season. The Masters has been postponed until Nov. 12-15, the same date as the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa, one of Europe’s premier Rolex Series events.

The U.S. Open has moved to Sept. 17-20, the same week as the KLM Open in the Netherlands.

Rolex Series events have a \$7 million purse, an amount that goes up as its Race to Dubai concludes with three events in November.

The Telegraph reported that Pelley and key members of his staff have taken salary cuts, and that some staff at headquarters south of London has been furloughed.

To salvage the season, Pelley suggested in the memo that when golf resumes, there could be multiple tournaments in the same location, two tournaments in the same week or as many as four tournaments in consecutive weeks in the United Kingdom, preceded by a 14-day period that would allow players from other countries to self-isolate in advance if that health requirement is still in play.

Pelley said the Rolex Series and U.K. events are a priority for the tour and broadcaster Sky Sports, and that it will “play behind closed doors if necessary.”

Four European Tour members are among the top 10 in the world ranking—Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Patrick Reed and Tommy Fleetwood—though all are joint PGA Tour members and all but Fleetwood live in the United States.

most likely assume a different appearance, if indeed they are present at all.”

Chief among the changes will be prize money.

“The reality is, the pandem-

ic is going to have a profound impact on the tour financially, as well as many of our partners, both in sponsorship and broadcast areas,” he said.

The European Tour started

the year with a schedule of 46 events held in 31 countries, which includes the four majors and four World Golf Championships.

Pelley was not part of the



NEW YORK (AP)—Arizona governor Doug Ducey says his state is willing to host all 30 major league teams at the time public health concerns allow, which eventually could lead to the start of the baseball season primarily in empty spring training ballparks.

MLB and the players’ association have had preliminary discussion of potential ways for the season to start if given the go-ahead by federal, state and local governments and health officials. Having all teams based in the Phoenix area is among the contingency plans being examined. There are 10 spring training parks plus the Diamondbacks’ Chase Field,

Arizona willing to host MLB, which cuts senior staff pay

which has a retractable roof, and several college facilities.

“Arizona, at the right time, is very open minded to hosting whatever Major League Baseball would like from the state,” Ducey, a Republican, said Tuesday. “At the time that it would be appropriate for public health, if Arizona were in a position to reopen, we have the facilities that are here.”

“We have the hotel space that is here,” he said. “We all want to make certain that the metrics and the data are proper before we’re able to go forward, but I think two words that would allow the country and the state of Arizona to know that things were headed back to normal

would be: Play ball!”

MLB also said Tuesday it is cutting the salary of senior staff by an average of 35% for this year due to the new coronavirus’ impact on the season. MLB is guaranteeing paychecks to its full-time employees of its central office through May.

With no clarity on when the shutdown will end, players and staff intently follow the daily developments.

“I think we’re all concerned that there’s not going to be a season,” Texas Rangers manager Chris Woodward said. “I don’t know when it’s going to be safe, I think the virus will let us know. If that means that we start in June, July, August

or not at all, we definitely are all kind of concerned that we may not be able to play this year, and that’s a reality.”

Ducey said he had spoken with Commissioner Rob Manfred about the all-Arizona option.

“There’s a number of different scenarios,” the governor said. “I think the first scenario that was talked about was the idea of these clubs coming, being in hotels and in a way, having their own stay-at-home orders whether it either be at the hotel, or inside the stadium, without fans. ... It’s something that Arizona is open minded to, and I’m open minded to.”

Many players and staff are

concerned about the potential of a long absence from family while sequestered.

Minnesota catcher Mitch Garver wondered how the plan would work,

“Where do we live? Who’s allowed to come with us? Are we only allowed to go to the field and back to the hotel? What kind of hotel? What kind of accommodations are we working with? Is there going to be meal money?” he said. “Then you get into player health, and we’re talking about playing in 120 degree weather on spring training fields potentially living out of a visiting locker room.”

Manfred announced the sal-

ary cut Tuesday in a memorandum to staff, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press. Manfred also said the commissioner’s office will make all planned distributions to teams through May.

“As part of our effort to protect the organization, my senior staff and I have decided to reduce our compensation by an average of 35% for 2020 to help the organization weather this terrible storm,” Manfred wrote in the memo, which described cost-cutting efforts.

“As a result of these developments, I am pleased to be in a position to ensure that all employees that received regular pay checks in April will continue to be paid through May 31,” he wrote.

Tokyo has no 'Plan B' for another postponement

TOKYO (AP)—There is no "Plan B" for the Olympics if they need to be postponed again because of the coronavirus pandemic, Tokyo organizers said Tuesday.

Masa Takaya, the spokesman for the Tokyo Olympics, said organizers are proceeding under the assumption the Olympics will open on July 23, 2021. The Paralympics follow on Aug. 24.

Those dates were set last month by the International Olympic Committee and Japanese officials after the coronavirus pandemic made it clear the Tokyo Games could not be held as scheduled this year.

"We are working toward the new goal," Takaya said, speaking in English on a teleconference call with journalists. "We don't have a B Plan."

The severity of the pandemic and the death toll has raised questions if it will even be feasible to hold the Olympics in just over 15 months.

"All I can tell you today is that the new games' dates for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games have been just set up," Takaya said. "In that respect, Tokyo 2020 and all concerned parties now are doing their very best effort to deliver the games next year."

IOC President Thomas Bach was asked about the possibility of a postponement in an interview published in the German newspaper Die Welt on Sunday.



AP
In this Sept. 29, 2019 file photo, Christian Coleman, center, competes in the 100m run during the World Athletics Championships in Doha, Qatar.

a rebuilt Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., and the Tokyo Games themselves.

The coronavirus pandemic postponed those plans. Hopefully, Eliud Kipchoge and Kenenisa Bekele will face off at a London Marathon rescheduled for Oct. 4. Hayward Field's grand reopening must wait, too. All of those athletes who starred at the world championships—and the marathon trials—saw their Olympic dreams deferred to 2021.

How will this change the sport's major storylines? We may have to wait a year to find out.

For Ato Boldon, the NBC Olympic track and field analyst, the most mouth-watering showdowns for track trials were to be the men's 200m and the women's 400m hurdles.

Christian Coleman, the world 100m champion, and Noah Lyles, the world 200m champion, both said in 2019 that they planned to race the 100m and 200m at trials, eyeing the Bolt feat of sweeping the sprints at the Olympics. The 200m typically comes after the 100m at trials and is a 20-second test of endurance after racing five previous times at the meet.

He did not answer the question directly, but said later that Japanese organizers and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe indicated they "could not manage a postponement beyond next summer at the latest."

The Olympics draw 11,000 athletes and 4,400 Paralympic athletes and large support staffs from 206 national Olympic committees.

There are also questions about frozen travel, rebook-

ing hotels, cramming fans into stadiums and arenas, securing venues and the massive costs of rescheduling, which is estimated in Japan at \$2 billion-\$6 billion.

Post-Usain Bolt Olympics

Meanwhile, six months ago at the world track and field championships, the U.S. showed its cards for the

Tokyo Olympics, what will be the first Games in the post-Usain Bolt era.

A bevy of 20-somethings (and a few in their 30s with remarkable stories) tied the record for most gold medals at a single worlds (14). Americans began filling the void left by the retirement of the biggest star in the sport's history.

Then came the U.S. Olympic



Marathon Trials on Feb. 29 in Atlanta. The men's and women's races exceeded expectations for excitement. They produced an unpredictable first six members of the U.S. Olympic track and field team.

Both world championships and those trials whet the appetite for what was to come—a spring marathon season with a duel between the two fastest men in history, the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials at

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surprise Ito at all, as the coach could attest to how Borja worked hard to be where she is right now.

"We've seen Guine's great passion for soccer. Even during my first time managing the CNMI youth national girls team (U14), I already knew she has the potential to become a successful player in this sport," Ito said.

Borja juggled her time between her studies and training sessions with the national team and though there were times that she had to stop playing because of an injury, she managed to get back to the pitch and help the squad.

"We've seen her improve her skills and smarts for it. We've seen her ups and downs with soccer, but she pulled through high school while playing for the CNMI women's national team," the North-

ern Mariana Islands Football Association staff said.

After Borja completed her high school, she remained in contact with Ito and the coaching staff, sending videos of her training workouts.

"We, at NMIFA and the women's national team are very happy and proud to see her move up to the collegiate level. We will continue to support her and wish her success in her college soccer career," Ito said.



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

CNMI captain Guine Borja, fifth left, poses with her counterpart in Guam, Shyann Roberto, second left, and match officials before their game in last year's Marianas Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Center in Dededo.

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my PB, but also run under three hours. "What I wanted to do when I got to 50 years old is to break my marathon time with running sandals. Before the finish line, I fell and didn't have the energy to stand up so crawled into the finish line," the five-time Saipan Marathon winner.

After her triumph in the Buckeye Marathon, the quinquagenarian also did the Sedona Half Marathon and Black Canyon 60K, which were both held in February before the COVID-19 pandemic suspended all races across the globe.

In the Black Canyon 60K, Berger ran in trails and did the same race last year where she finished third.

"I am still learning to run in

trails," she said.

In the half marathon, Berger submitted 1:36:33, two minutes faster than her 2019 time. She also topped the 50 to 54 age group, besting 74 other runners and was ranked No. 5 among 737 female finishers and No. 21 overall (out of 1,143 runners).

"It was fun running with people in their 20s and 30s," Berger said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mamiko Berger negotiates the trail course in the 2020 Black Canyon 60K held in Arizona in February.



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spree sets
stage for
Raiders draft

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mamiko still running and winning

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four years ago, on April 16, Micronesian Games gold medalist Mamiko Berger clinched her fifth title in the Saipan Marathon.



The veteran runner completed the 42.195-kilometer race from the American Memorial Park to Mariana Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, and back to the starting line in 3:15:19, breaking the 3:28:19 she posted when she won the same event in 2015. Berger, who also topped the 2008, 2009, and 2012 editions of the Marianas Visitors Authority's signature event, making her the winningest runner in the competition, was way ahead of runner-up and Japan's Satomi Oka (3:24:56).

The 2016 victory was the last time Berger did the marathon course of the annual event, as she and her husband, Joshua, left the island the fol-



A smiling Mamiko Berger, right photo, is about to cross the finish line of the 2016 Saipan Marathon. Left photo shows Berger racing in the 4th Buckeye Marathon in Arizona en route to her new personal best time.

lowing year and are now based in Arizona. Berger came back for the 2018 Saipan Marathon, but raced in the 50K event, which she also ruled.

The gold medal winner in the 10K event of the 2010 Micro Games in Palau went on to miss the 2019 and 2020 editions of the Saipan Marathon and although, she is no longer a familiar figure in the islands' races, Berger is running actively and still winning, too.

Last Jan. 4, Berger competed in the 4th Buckeye Marathon and clocked in at 3:08:42 for a new personal best time, as she shattered the 3:09:49 she registered when she ruled the 2012 Saipan Marathon. In the Buckeye Marathon, Berger did not only top the 50 to 54 age group, but also the entire women's field. She finished nearly one hour ahead of the runner-up in her division.

"I did the same race the previous year and couldn't finish. Well, worse, I did end up at the paramedic van at the halfway mark, probably due to dehydration," Berger said.

This year, she crossed the finish line in style, crawling and wearing "huaraches" (running sandals).

"I really pushed myself and I do not only wanted to break

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Guine's feat to inspire other NMI players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

If Guine Borja made it to the collegiate ranks, other CNMI players can, too.

Angie Ito, one of Borja's coaches with the CNMI Women's National Team, congratulated the 19-year-old for earning an athletics scholarship with Navarro College in Texas and hopes to see more players from the islands follow the latter's footsteps.

"She is headstrong and has an opportunity to go far with her dreams. But I think her greatest opportunity is to be a

role model for the young girls in the NMI...that they can do what she's done too, to dream and keep going," said Ito.

Borja signed a letter of intent to play for the Bulldogs, who compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association and are coached by former pro and Jamaica National Team member Alicia Wilson.

News on the many-time CNMI national team member and Paire Football Club player getting a chance to see action in the collegiate level does not

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
CNMI captain Guine Borja, fifth left, celebrates with her teammates after making a goal in their game against Guam in last year's Marianas Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Center in Dededo.